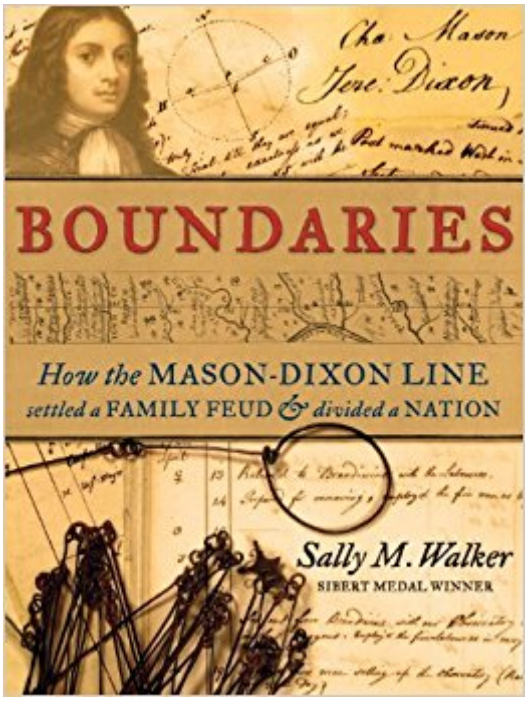
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Boundaries: How The Mason-Dixon Line Settled A Family Feud And Divided A Nation



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Synopsis

The Mason-Dixon LineÃ¢â ¬â„¢s history, replete with property disputes, persecution, and ideological conflicts, traverses our countryÃ¢â ¬â„¢s history from its founding to today. We live in a world of boundaries Ã¢â ¬â • geographic, scientific, cultural, and religious. One of AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most enduring boundaries is the Mason-Dixon Line, most associated with the divide between the North and the South and the right to freedom for all people. Sibert MedalÃ¢â ¬â œwinning author Sally M. Walker traces the tale of the Mason-Dixon Line through family feuds, brave exploration, scientific excellence, and the struggle to define a cohesive country. But above all, this remarkable story of surveying, marking, and respecting lines of demarcation will alert young history buffs to their guaranteed right and responsibility to explore, challenge, change, and defend the boundaries that define them.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 9 UpÃ¢â ¬â •With her book title reflecting both theme and structure, Walker begins with the English religious boundaries that drove the Catholic Calvert family and Quaker William Penn to seek religious freedom in their respective New World colonies of Maryland and Pennsylvania. Conflicting royal land grants and imprecise surveys led to a disputed boundary between the colonies,

eventually resolved by an accurate land survey conducted by British scientists Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon. Much of the book describes their work, one of the most technologically challenging surveys done to that point. The author concludes with a discussion of how their survey line became a physical and symbolic boundary that marked the divisions in pre- and post-Civil War America, concluding that it remains a representational historic link to contemporary physical and cultural boundaries. Walker's account, supplemented with numerous illustrations and maps, of the conflicts along the disputed boundary and Mason and Dixon's innovative methods of scientific surveying is comprehensive and objective but is occasionally dry, and some of the complex scientific and technical concepts will be too difficult for middle school readers. Her emphasis on the survey provides a perspective missing in titles such as John C. Davenport's The Mason-Dixon Line (Chelsea House, 2004), which focuses on the line's political and military role in the antebellum slavery debate and Civil War and the postwar cultural division between North and South. While the topic won't draw a large audience, its importance in American history makes this book a strong report choice about the boundaries that shaped our nation or science in early America.Ã¢â ¬â •Mary Mueller, Rolla Public Schools, MO --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This thoroughly researched account of the MasonÃ¢â ¬â œDixon Line encompasses a broad span of time and place, from sixteenth-century England to twentieth-century America. Walker, who wrote the Sibert Award winner Secrets of a Civil War Submarine (2005), opens with generations of the Calvert and the Penn families in England, leading up to their founding the colonies of Maryland and Pennsylvania. After many border disputes, a commission hired Englishmen Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon to set the boundary between the colonies. Using their skills in astronomy, mathematics, and surveying, they completed the task in 1768. One interesting section of the book involves the negotiations necessary before Mason and Dixon could extend their survey into Native American territory. Illustrations include maps, period documents, and photos of sites and artifacts. Many students will find the text challenging to read, particularly the sections explaining the techniques and tools that Mason and Dixon used to determine the lineÃ¢â ¬â„¢s exact location. WalkerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s latest book offers a good deal of pertinent information on the subject at hand, as well as some interesting sidelights on American history. Grades 8-12. --Carolyn Phelan --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This is not the type of book I usually go for, but I had to read a book by Walker for a graduate class and decided on this one because I lived in Maryland for years. This book is well researched and

interesting though I did get a little confused with some of the vocabulary regarding the surveying. I enjoyed reading about the Calvert family and had fun figuring out where many of the county names in Maryland originated from. This book does focus mostly on Mason and Dixon surveying the western line among other lines. This book is worth a read if you interested in the creation of the Mason-Dixon line and the science behind surveying in the 18th century.

I haven't really delved too deeply into the book as of yet but so far it has been insightful and well-written.

Gave me a better understanding of the Mason-Dixon Line.

good experience

What an exciting and informative book! Wait a minuteÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •can non-fiction be exciting and informative? Certainly when Sally M. Walker is at pen. Initially I wasnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t sure which way the book was heading: the first chapter is the history of the Calverts and the settlement of Maryland, and the next chapter outlines the history of the Penns and the settlement of Pennsylvania. Then it becomes quite clear: it is about the erroneous boundaries between the two states and the inevitable conflicts that ensued. Charles Mason (brilliant astronomer and mathematician) and Jeremiah Dixon (brilliant mathematician, draftsman and astronomer), highly acclaimed by the Royal Society in London, were dispatched to Philadelphia to begin an intensive boundary mapping project. This book is loaded with historical cultural information, including a brief synopsis of the Native Americans in the area. Students doing research on the Pennsylvania and Maryland colonies would do well by just reading the pertinent chapter. Descriptive photographs, as well as those of DixonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s documents and the teamÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s instruments, keep the reader turning pages. Extensive asides outlining the mapping procedures utilizing the stars will capture the interest of young minds hungering for well-defined information.

My husband and I took a trip to Pennsylvania and used this book to get the background story about the Mason-Dixon Line. My ancestors worked on the line, so it was especially interesting to me. The book was filled with details that brought that time to life. The feud between William Penn and both Lord Baltimores was dealt with at length so that you really understand how important it was to get it right.

It’s not very often that you see a book that so perfectly intertwines history, politics, science and technology, but Sally Walker makes it all work. My vague notion of the "Mason-Dixon line" before reading BOUNDARIES was that it was some sort of, uh, railroad. But it was actually a triumph of technology, a painstakingly marked survey line designed to settle long-standing political and territorial disputes that had brewed ever since the European settlement of colonial America. While telling the story of the Mason-Dixon line Walker uses the concept of "boundaries" not just as lines on a map but as a way of thinking about America itself. Eye-opening for adults as well as young people.

fast and in time. as a gift to tiny, Cheap yet works perfectly. helpful. Definitely a good purchase. I was looking for a replacement for my chef’s product and this looks to be a really well made product. Its sharp, with a nice weight to it. Will definitely recommend to anyone looking for a good product at a reasonable price.

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