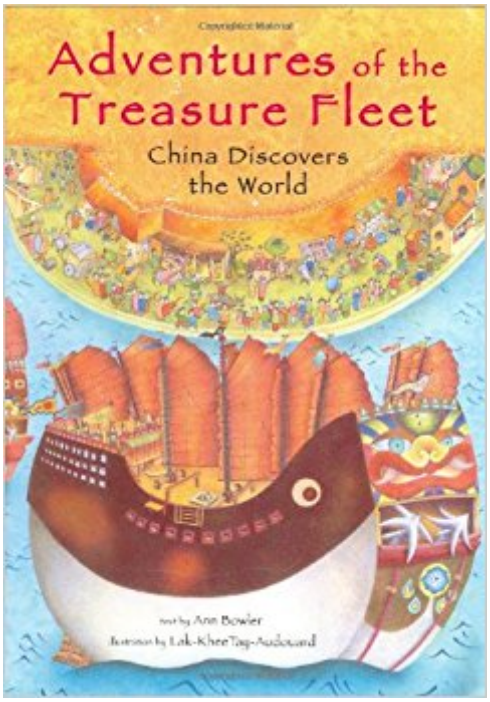
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Adventures Of The Treasure Fleet: China Discovers The World



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Synopsis

Join the Chinese admiral and his crew as they battle pirates and raging storms in this beautifully illustrated Chinese history book for kids.Did you know that 85 years before Columbus discovered America, Chinese ships longer than a football field sailed thousands of miles through unknown oceans and visited more than 30 nations? It’s true!Adventures of the Treasure Fleet: China Discovers that World is the amazing story of these seven epic voyages and their larger-than-life commander, Admiral Zheng He. Beginning in 1405, Admiral Zheng He led more than 300 gigantic, brightly-painted ships across the South China Sea to the Indian Ocean and all the way to the distant coast of Africa. The admiral and his crew battled pirates and raging storms, and were amazed by the people and ways of life in distant lands. At each port, Chinese goods were traded for pearls, precious stones, herbs and medicines which were given as tribute to China’s powerful emperor when the ships’ returned home.Filled with historical facts, Adventures of the Treasure Fleet brings a fantastic piece of history to life. Gracefully told and beautifully illustrated, the story’s fast pace will keep young ones captivated while offering enough information to satisfy curious readers of all ages.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1050L (What’s this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Tuttle Publishing (December 15, 2006)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.4 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #857,520 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #132 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Education & Reference > History > Asia #266 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Ancient Civilizations #332 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Education & Reference > History > Exploration & Discovery

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 6

Customer Reviews

"Throughout the book, Lak-Khee Tay-Audouard’s softly shaded illustrations demonstrate a quirky

but effective depiction of perspective. They complement the writing beautifully. Between them, Bowler and Tay-Adouard have produced a treasure indeed." Ã¢â ¬â •Papertigers.org blog"Adventures of the Treasure Fleet is not just a picture book. This beautifully illustrated book tells a fascinating story, provides facts on world history eighty-five years before Columbus and presents a theme lesson on World geography." Ã¢â ¬â •Miss Panda Chinese Mandarin learning site

Adventures of the Treasure Fleet is the amazing story of seven epic voyages and its larger-than-life commander, Admiral Zheng He. He led more than 300 gigantic, brightly painted ships across the South China Sea, to Indian Ocean and all the way to the distant coast of Africa. Palaces, temples and the ways of people in distant lands amazed them. They befriended kings, charted unknown waters and were awestruck by Africa's exotic animals. At each port, China's best porcelains and silks were traded for pearls, precious stones, herbs and medicines. They brought home treasures from far away lands to pay tribute to China's powerful emperor.

This book combines heroic feats of diplomacy with stylish drawings and a page-by-page narrative to bring children a greater awareness of Chinese excellence.Text along the bottom of the page offers more detail and quotes from? Zheng? He? The notes on the book do not give sources for the quotes.Nice map in the end papers.

Great simple presentation of one of those topics our history teachers never seem to cover

Nearly a century before Magellan and da Gama, the Chinese sent out fleets of enormous junks under Admiral Cheng Ho to explore the Indian ocean and trade with Africa. This is the children's version of the story, but it's a good way to introduce people to a nearly-unknown story.

I've read a good bit about China. But, I've never even heard of Admiral Zheng He. So embarrassing. In Adventures of the Treasure Fleet: China Discovers the World, Ann Bowler does a great job teaching children all of us about the amazing story (think pirates and storms!) of seven voyages of more than 300 gigantic ships that sailed across the South China Sea to the Indian Ocean to the coast of Africa and back again in the early 1400s. At each port, China's porcelain and silks were traded for jewels, herbs, and medicines as well as all sorts of treasures as gifts to the Chinese emperor from the leaders of faraway lands. Love the illustrations as well as the layout--reading like a fiction story at the top and other text reading like an encyclopedia at the bottom. You'll get a lot out

of this one. (And, for families with a tie to Nanjing, that's where the ships were built and started out)If you want to read my reviews of 35 kids books having to do with China, visit my 7.2.2012 post on myoverthinking(dot)com

Readers of Ann Bowler's Gecko's Complaint who have longed for more of her work will not be disappointed by Adventures of the Treasure Fleet, historical fiction based on a true story of fifteenth-century China. Another beautifully illustrated book for children, Adventures of the Treasure Fleet introduces a piece of history many do not know.Bowler tells the story on two levels. The children's story, accompanied by Tay-Audouard's gently imaginative pencil drawings, is a fictionalized account of the historic events that are detailed at the bottom of every two-page spread. Bowler has taken the seven voyages that the Treasure Fleet made and combined them into one story, abundant with adventure, exotic locales, and colorful characters.At a time when it seems that every piece of junky merchandise is imported from China, it's interesting to learn of the fine porcelains and silks that Emperor Zhu Di (third ruler of the Ming Dynasty) loaded on westbound ships to be delivered to rulers of other lands and to be used in trade. In return, he received precious metals, gems, spices, and other treasures.Bowler fills the pages with interesting facts about the real life Treasure Fleet, which was in operation for 28 years. In all, 317 ships were built; they visited over thirty countries, and traveled more than 35,000 miles under the admiralty of Zheng He. The first sailing was in the autumn of 1405, 87 years before Columbus sailed to the New World.With 27,000 men aboard the ships, Admiral Zheng He's venture comprised the largest navy assembled until World War II--more than 500 years later. Crews were made up of the expected soldiers and sailors, but also included "doctors, scribes, shipbuilders, priests, cooks, and diplomats."When the ships arrived at various ports, they were not always welcomed with open arms. However, once leaders saw the impressive gifts with which they were presented, they became much friendlier. One interesting--and exciting--incident occurred when Admiral Zheng He led an attack against pirates who terrorized the seas near the trading port of Malacca. The technically advanced Chinese fought with weapons the rest of the world had never seen, and were victorious. This victory led to prosperity for Malacca; it became the largest city in the region.Pirate battles and hostile greetings are but a few of the many thrilling stories told in Adventures of the Treasure Fleet. It transports the reader to a dream world that actually existed, and painlessly serves up history lessons that are eagerly digested.Bottom Line: Would I buy Adventures of the Treasure Fleet? Yes. The story is wonderful and the illustrations purchase it a premier spot on the coffee table.

This is a treasure of a book, with lively text and illustrations geared to pull the young reader into the world of yesteryear and many of its ancient cultures. In 1405, Admiral Zheng He led his fleet to an amazing number of ports around the world, creating trading routes and opening opportunities for modern commerce. Blended in are explanations of China's early inventions, boat building, the magnetic compass, navigation techniques, how to create diplomatic bonds with strangers, what was traded and how global trade developed at the hands of the Chinese and their partners, and more.Bowler's roots as a teacher are on display. The reader is seamlessly transported into an ancient world, and made to think about how incredible these accomplishments must have felt to people without the modern conveniences we all take for granted. How to communicate among all the ships, navigate stormy waters, fight off pirates, and make friends with strangers in a language you do not share? Bowler entices her readers to think about how amazing all these accomplishments were.Intricately detailed art work helps the reader visualize every day life, as well as different cultural characteristics of Africa, India, Siam (now Thailand), what we now call the Middle East, and of course, China. The artist shows homes, dress, animals, musical instruments, dinnerware and vases, food, plants, places of worship, boats, traded goods of different countries, and much more. The map at the end of the book helps the readers grasp the magnitude of the 35,000 miles of oceans traveled.This book tells the story of many fantastic voyages of a visionary explorer in a way that should catch and hold the attention of the reader. What a terrific way to introduce an important piece of our global history and culture to primary and secondary school readers - as well as their parents!

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