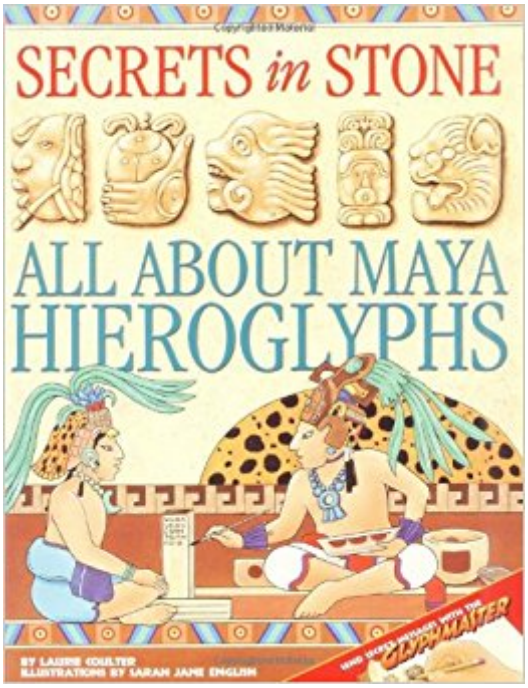
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Secrets In Stone : All About Maya Hieroglyphics



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Synopsis

Until about forty years ago, the ancient Maya hieroglyphics and the world they described remained virtually indecipherable. Now Secrets in Stone takes readers into the world of the ancient Maya code and explains how it was deciphered and what it all means. Not only is this the first book on the subject for children, this book also comes with its very own UV-raised "Glyphmaster," which allows budding archaeologists to create glyph rubbings, just like real archaeologists, Ancient Egyptians hueroglyphics have long captivated the interest of children. Now, inquisitive minds will relish developing their own secret codes and messages with over fifty Maya hieroglyphs.

Book Information

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Young Readers (October 1, 2001)

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

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Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Grades 3-6--Though she includes information on the rediscovery of Mayan culture, ruins, and aspects of daily life, Coulter's focus is on the decipherment and usage of the Mayan syllabary. The author includes the false steps as well as the progress of 19th- and 20th-century researchers and, on many pages, uses "glyph searches" and other hooks to encourage readers to examine carefully the illustrations, which consist of high-quality photos of sites and artifacts, detailed drawings, and clear reproductions. The calendar, ways of naming and identifying people, and counting are all explained in straightforward fashion and in each case the information serves to further the author's goal of making readers think about how these symbols worked and to put them to use. The star attraction is the "Glyphmaster," a spread that provides common signs in relief so that children can

make rubbings. There are glyphs for animals, colors, and people, plus a version of the alphabet in which letters are represented by symbols approximating those sounds, even though the text explains that the Mayan system produces syllables, not individual letters. Combining historical information with activity-based ideas, this attractive volume may reach a larger audience than the usual history title.Coop Renner, Moreno Elementary School, El Paso, TXCopyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Gr. 3-6. Unlocking the secret of Mayan hieroglyphics was a long and painstaking process, lasting well over a hundred years. Europeans rediscovered early Mayan cities in the 1840s, and their bafflement at the ancient system of writing began a scholarly process that didn't have its final breakthrough until the mid-1970s. Coulter describes clearly and concisely how the mystery was unraveled, while the colorful, well-laid-out pages add appeal with plenty of photographs and stylized drawings that suggest Mayan art. Ideas for crafts, activities and even a party run along the page bottoms. Also explained are the Maya civilization's number system and complex calendar. A time line, short glossary, and short bibliography (of mostly adult books) are appended. A substantive, much-needed resource. Todd MorningCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

This is a fun introduction to Maya Hieroglyphics with some history, stories, and an explanation of how read some of the hieroglyphs. There is a cool raised portion so you can feel what the symbols would feel like carved into stone (as they would have been) and make your own rubbings. My son and I read through on our flight to Mexico and we learned a lot of information that helped make our trip to Coba more meaningful. The author keeps it interactive by asking you to find glyphs elsewhere in the book and challenging you to deciper and write some things of your own. I found the part about the Mayan calendar to be clear and in-depth as well.

My 5 yo daughter pulled this off the shelf of our local library and said, "I want to read about Egypt." I glanced at the book and almost put it back when I saw what the topic really was. But, then I decided, "Hey, if she thinks it looks interesting, let's read it." Surprise! My 8 yo, she, and I all loved the book! We checked it out again recently, and my older child (who is now 9) devoured it in one sitting.Learning how to read the hieroglyphs is a blast, and I loved the puzzles that the author sets for the reader. He has you find particular hieroglyphs in actual Maya inscriptions. I have seen some of the Maya ruins and loved them long before this book was published, but this book adds so much

depth to the study of Maya history.Plus, the book has raised hieroglyphs on the inside covers. You can then make rubbings of the hieroglyphs to form different words. A great purchase!

This is a great book for introducing children and others about hieroglyphics. I thought it was great for myself even. The book tells the history of diciphering the Mayan hieroglyphs. While the Egyptian hieroglyphs had the Rosetta Stone, there was no Rosetta stone for the Mayan. Archeologists needed to learn how to count and tell time, then went from there. Very interesting.

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