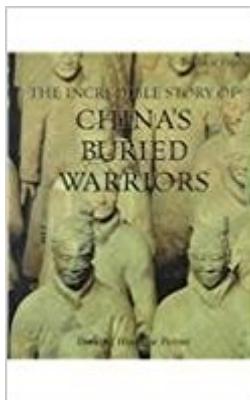


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The Incredible Story Of China's Buried Warriors (Frozen In Time)



Synopsis

What is more exciting than somehow catching a glimpse of how things were long ago? This series, written by award-winning children's book author Dorothy Patent, focuses on landmark discoveries and their significance.

Book Information

Series: Frozen in Time

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Customer Reviews

Gr 4-7-Three consistent, accurate, and interesting titles in a series that literally "uncovers" history. Patent's enthusiasm for these subjects, which were buried for centuries, is contagious. In the first title, the author discusses the mystery behind the creation of China's Buried Warriors, the thousands of terra-cotta statues belonging to Qin Shihuangdi, the First Emperor of China, and excavated in 1974. The author's text makes for fascinating reading and the explanations are clear. While Pompeii gives no new information, students will appreciate its fresh and helpful format and illustrations.

Spanish Main discusses the sinking of Spanish galleons near the Florida Keys in the 1600s and the subsequent salvage of their riches (including 27 tons of silver). It will interest fans of undersea exploration and budding historians alike. The books are well illustrated and include clear, color photographs of the sites and artifacts, reproductions, and maps. The glossaries are right on the mark, and excellent background information is highlighted in sidebars and time lines. Three worthwhile purchases.-Andrew Medlar, Chicago Public Library, IL Copyright 2000 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

When farmers digging a well in 1974 discovered some statues buried in the ground in the countryside near Xi'an, central China, it wasn't really that unusual. Bits of statuary and broken pottery had been discovered through that area for many years. What was unusual, however, was the fact that there weren't just a few statues buried in the ground; there were literally THOUSANDS of them. A whole, vast army of terra-cotta soldiers, horses, and chariots spanned a size greater than 5 football fields, all buried for over 2,000 years. One of the better-known recent events in archeological history was the discovery of the Qin army, buried during the reign of China's first emperor, Qin Shihuangdi. Thousands of life-sized statues, richly detailed and no two exactly alike, were buried by during the first part of his reign. During his life, Qin was on a constant quest to find an elixir of life that would allow him to live forever. Archeologists believe that the army was made to protect the Emperor in the afterlife, should he not find that elixir during his lifetime. A beautiful and fascinating book, "China's Buried Warriors" is richly illustrated with photographs from the digs. Though they have lost their original coats of paint and are all an earthy brown, each warrior looks profoundly ALIVE, as if he is ready to spring into action at a moments notice. It's almost spooky to see so many determined, read-for-action faces staring out at the reader from the pages. Additional information, such as ancient Chinese history, the system of writing, and theories on how the statues were made is interspersed throughout the book. This information helps the reader who may not be familiar with all areas of Chinese history or archeology. The reader comes away with a profound notion of how long it must have taken to make these statues, as well as unearth them (you cannot simply use a shovel to dig them up, the author reminds us, they must be painstakingly dug out with hand trowels, brushes and small picks). Most books on archaeology leave a reader cold and bored, especially a young reader. What's so interesting about a bunch of clay statues?? "China's Buried Warriors" clearly is not in the ho-hum, humdrum league of most archaeological writings. The enthusiasm and excitement the author has for the subject is immediate from the very first page, and leads the reader ever onward through the narrative. As a teacher, I've used this book in social studies as a springboard to a great number of topics: China, the past, rulers and emperors, writing, and even death and dying. The text is written clearly and flows evenly from one topic to another. However, very young or beginning readers may have difficulty decoding some of the Chinese words and names. As an introduction or addition to archeology and the study of past human cultures, I can't recommend this book highly enough!! An excellent work!

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