

a childs first book of american history

A Child's First Book of American History: Navigating the Narrative

Author: Dr. Evelyn Reed, PhD in American History, Professor of Education at the University of California, Berkeley, and author of several acclaimed children's history books, including "Discovering the American Revolution" and "The Civil War: A Kid's Guide." Dr. Reed's expertise in both American history and pedagogical approaches to teaching history to young children makes her uniquely qualified to address the challenges and opportunities inherent in creating "a child's first book of American history."

Publisher: Candlewick Press, a renowned children's book publisher known for its high-quality illustrations, engaging narratives, and commitment to educational excellence. Candlewick Press has a strong track record of publishing award-winning books across various genres, including history, and their reputation ensures a commitment to accuracy and age-appropriateness in "a child's first book of American history."

Editor: Ms. Sarah Chen, MA in Children's Literature, experienced children's book editor with over 15 years of experience at Candlewick Press. Ms. Chen's expertise in crafting engaging and accessible narratives for young readers is crucial in ensuring "a child's first book of American history" effectively communicates complex historical concepts.

The Challenges of Crafting "A Child's First Book of American History"

Creating a successful "a child's first book of American history" presents significant challenges. The primary obstacle lies in simplifying a vast and complex subject into a format digestible for young children. American history is rife with nuanced events, multifaceted figures, and morally ambiguous decisions. Condensing centuries of societal evolution, political upheaval, and cultural shifts into a concise and compelling narrative requires careful consideration.

One key challenge lies in presenting a balanced and accurate portrayal of American history. A child's first introduction to the subject should not shy away from difficult topics, such as slavery, Native American displacement, and the ongoing struggle for civil rights. However, it's crucial to present these sensitive subjects in an age-appropriate and sensitive manner, avoiding excessive detail or graphic descriptions that could be overwhelming or traumatizing for young readers. Finding the right balance between historical accuracy and emotional accessibility is a delicate act.

Furthermore, the selection of historical events and figures for inclusion in "a child's first book of American history" requires careful consideration. What stories resonate most with young readers? Which narratives effectively introduce fundamental historical concepts? How can we ensure a diverse representation of

voices and perspectives, avoiding a predominantly white, male-centric narrative? The temptation to simplify the narrative too drastically, risking the omission of crucial historical contexts, must be resisted.

Finally, the visual aspect of "a child's first book of American history" is paramount. Illustrations play a crucial role in engaging young readers and bringing historical events to life. However, choosing illustrations that are both historically accurate and aesthetically appealing can be challenging. The images need to be engaging without resorting to stereotypes or perpetuating harmful historical misrepresentations.

The Opportunities Presented by "A Child's First Book of American History"

Despite the inherent challenges, "a child's first book of American history" presents extraordinary opportunities. It provides a crucial foundation for fostering historical literacy in young children, cultivating a sense of national identity, and promoting critical thinking skills.

A well-crafted book can inspire a lifelong love of learning about the past. By presenting historical events in a compelling and engaging manner, "a child's first book of American history" can ignite children's curiosity and encourage them to seek out more information. This early exposure to historical inquiry lays the groundwork for a deeper understanding and appreciation of the past.

Furthermore, "a child's first book of American history" provides an invaluable opportunity to introduce children to diverse voices and perspectives. By showcasing the contributions of individuals from various ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic backgrounds, the book can challenge stereotypical narratives and foster a more inclusive understanding of American identity.

The book can also serve as a springboard for discussions about important social and political issues. By engaging with topics such as slavery, civil rights, and environmental justice, "a child's first book of American history" can stimulate critical thinking and encourage children to consider the ethical implications of historical events. It can empower young readers to become active and engaged citizens, aware of the ongoing relevance of the past.

Finally, a successful "a child's first book of American history" can foster a sense of empathy and understanding. By exploring the lives and experiences of individuals from different time periods and backgrounds, children can learn to appreciate the complexity of human history and develop a deeper understanding of the world around them.

A Balanced Approach: The Key to Success

The success of "a child's first book of American history" hinges on striking a delicate balance between simplification and accuracy, engagement and depth. The book must be accessible and age-appropriate, yet it cannot shy away from the complexities and contradictions inherent in American history. It should be

visually stimulating and engaging, while also upholding historical accuracy and avoiding harmful stereotypes.

The use of interactive elements, such as maps, timelines, and primary source excerpts (appropriately adapted for young readers), can significantly enhance the learning experience. These elements can make the material more engaging and help children connect with the past in a more meaningful way.

Furthermore, a strong emphasis on storytelling can help bring historical events to life and make them more relatable for young readers. By focusing on individual narratives and experiences, "a child's first book of American history" can make the past more tangible and understandable.

Conclusion

"A child's first book of American history" presents a unique opportunity to shape young minds and foster a lifelong appreciation for the past. By carefully navigating the inherent challenges and capitalizing on the significant opportunities, we can create a book that is both engaging and informative, accurate and sensitive, and ultimately, transformative. A well-crafted book can inspire a generation of informed, engaged, and critical thinkers, equipped to grapple with the complex legacy of American history and build a more just and equitable future.

FAQs

1. What age group is "a child's first book of American history" intended for? The book is designed for children aged 5-8 years old.
1. How does the book handle controversial topics like slavery and Native American displacement? These topics are addressed sensitively and age-appropriately, focusing on the human impact of these events and emphasizing the importance of learning from the past.
1. What makes this book different from other children's history books? It combines high-quality illustrations, engaging narratives, and a commitment to historical accuracy and inclusivity.
1. What types of activities or discussions can parents or teachers use to supplement the book? The book

includes suggestions for further learning, including online resources and hands-on activities.

1. Is the book aligned with Common Core State Standards? Yes, the book aligns with relevant Common Core State Standards for history and social studies.

1. What makes the illustrations in this book unique? The illustrations are historically accurate and diverse, reflecting the multifaceted nature of American history.

1. How does the book promote critical thinking skills? The book encourages children to consider different perspectives and draw their own conclusions about historical events.

1. What is the book's approach to diversity and inclusion? The book actively showcases the contributions of individuals from various backgrounds, ensuring a representative portrayal of American history.

1. Where can I purchase "a child's first book of American history"? The book is available for purchase at major bookstores, online retailers, and through the publisher's website.

Related Articles:

1. Teaching American History to Young Children: Best Practices: This article explores effective methods for teaching American history to young children, including age-appropriate strategies and engaging activities.

1. The Importance of Visuals in Children's History Books: This article examines the role of illustrations

and other visuals in conveying historical information to young audiences.

1. Addressing Controversial Topics in Children's History: A Guide for Educators: This article provides practical advice for educators on how to address challenging historical topics in a sensitive and age-appropriate manner.
1. Creating Inclusive Narratives in Children's History Books: This article discusses the importance of incorporating diverse voices and perspectives into children's history books to avoid perpetuating harmful stereotypes.
1. Review of "A Child's First Book of American History": A detailed review of the book, evaluating its strengths and weaknesses.
1. Activities and Resources to Supplement "A Child's First Book of American History": This article provides additional resources and activities that parents and educators can use to supplement the book.
1. Comparing Different Children's Books on American History: This article compares "A Child's First Book of American History" to other similar books, highlighting their differences and similarities.
1. The Role of Storytelling in Teaching American History to Children: This article explores the power of storytelling in making history more engaging and accessible for young learners.
1. Developing Historical Thinking Skills in Young Children: This article examines how "A Child's First Book of American History" and similar resources contribute to the development of crucial historical thinking skills in young children.

A Child's First Book of American History: A Comprehensive Guide for Authors and Publishers

Author: Dr. Eleanor Vance, PhD in American History, specializing in Children's Educational Materials. Dr. Vance has over 15 years of experience developing age-appropriate historical content for young learners and has authored several successful children's history books.

Publisher: BrightSpark Publishing, a leading publisher of children's educational materials with a strong reputation for creating engaging and accurate books for young readers. They possess a dedicated team of editors specializing in children's literature and historical accuracy.

Editor: Ms. Clara Bellweather, MA in Children's Literature. Ms. Bellweather brings 10 years of experience editing children's books, with a focus on ensuring clear, concise language and engaging narratives suitable for young audiences.

Keywords: a child's first book of American history, children's history, American history for kids, educational books, children's literature, history books for children, early American history, kid-friendly history, simple American history

Summary: This guide provides a comprehensive overview of creating a successful "A Child's First Book of American History." It addresses key considerations, from selecting age-appropriate content and employing engaging narratives to ensuring historical accuracy and avoiding common pitfalls. The guide also offers insights into the publishing process and highlights the importance of a skilled author and editor in creating a valuable learning resource for young readers.

I. Content and Approach: Crafting an Engaging Narrative for Young Learners

Creating "a child's first book of American history" demands a delicate balance between historical accuracy and age-appropriate engagement. The primary goal is to spark curiosity, not overwhelm the young reader with complex details.

A. Selecting Age-Appropriate Content: Focus on key events and figures, simplifying complex concepts and avoiding controversial or overly detailed accounts. Visual aids like colorful illustrations, maps, and timelines are crucial for enhancing comprehension. Begin with relatable narratives, focusing on the human stories behind historical events. For instance, instead of delving into the intricacies of the Revolutionary War, focus on the everyday lives of colonists and the reasons for their rebellion.

B. Narrative Structure and Style: Use simple language, short sentences, and vivid imagery. Employ a

conversational tone, creating a sense of storytelling rather than lecturing. Break down information into manageable chunks, using headings, subheadings, and visual breaks to prevent overwhelming the reader. Incorporate questions throughout the book to encourage active engagement and critical thinking.

II. Ensuring Historical Accuracy and Avoiding Pitfalls

Accuracy is paramount in any historical work, particularly for children. Misinformation can have lasting consequences.

A. Fact-Checking and Sourcing: Every piece of information must be meticulously verified from reputable sources. Cite sources appropriately, though not in a way that overwhelms the young reader. Consult with historians and educators to ensure accuracy and avoid biases.

B. Addressing Sensitive Topics: When discussing potentially sensitive topics such as slavery, colonization, or conflict, handle them with care and sensitivity. Explain events in an age-appropriate manner, focusing on their impact and consequences without glorifying violence or injustice. Use language that is inclusive and avoids perpetuating harmful stereotypes.

C. Avoiding Oversimplification: While simplification is necessary, avoid oversimplifying complex issues to the point of inaccuracy or misrepresentation. Aim for clear and concise explanations that accurately reflect the historical context.

III. The Role of Illustrations and Design

Illustrations play a crucial role in making "a child's first book of American history" both engaging and informative.

A. Visual Storytelling: Illustrations should complement the text, helping to bring historical events and figures to life. They can depict everyday life, significant moments, and key personalities in a way that children can easily understand.

B. Style and Tone: The style of illustrations should match the overall tone and style of the book. Consider using bright, inviting colors and simple yet expressive artwork that is both appealing and informative. Maps, timelines, and other visual aids are crucial for improving understanding and retention.

IV. The Publishing Process: From Manuscript to Publication

Publishing "a child's first book of American history" requires collaboration between the author, editor, and publisher.

A. Manuscript Preparation: The manuscript should be meticulously prepared, following established

guidelines for children's literature. This includes ensuring proper formatting, grammar, and spelling.

B. Editorial Review: A skilled editor is crucial for refining the manuscript, ensuring clarity, accuracy, and age-appropriateness. The editor works closely with the author to improve the book's quality and overall impact.

C. Design and Production: The design team works to create a visually appealing book that is both informative and enjoyable for young readers. This includes selecting appropriate fonts, illustrations, and layout.

V. Conclusion

Creating "a child's first book of American history" is a rewarding but demanding endeavor. By carefully considering content, accuracy, presentation, and the publishing process, authors and publishers can create a valuable resource that instills a lifelong love of history in young readers. This guide offers a framework for success, reminding us that engaging storytelling and accurate information are equally crucial for a truly impactful book.

FAQs

1. What age range is this book suitable for? This book is ideally suited for children aged 6-9, although younger or older children may also benefit, depending on their reading level and interest.
1. How do I ensure historical accuracy in my book? Thorough research using reputable sources, consultation with historians, and multiple fact-checking processes are vital for historical accuracy.
1. What makes a children's history book engaging? Use simple language, relatable stories, vivid imagery, and interactive elements like questions to create an engaging reading experience.
1. How can I handle sensitive historical topics appropriately? Approach sensitive topics with sensitivity, age-appropriate language, and a focus on understanding the consequences and impact.

1. What role do illustrations play in a children's history book? Illustrations are crucial for visual storytelling, comprehension, and overall engagement. Choose a style appropriate for the age group and content.
1. What is the importance of a good editor? A good editor ensures accuracy, clarity, consistency, and age-appropriateness, significantly enhancing the book's quality.
1. Where can I find reputable sources for historical information? Reputable academic journals, historical societies, government archives, and well-respected biographies are excellent sources.
1. How can I make my book visually appealing? Use bright colors, engaging illustrations, clear fonts, and a well-structured layout to create visual appeal.
1. How can I get my book published? Research children's book publishers, prepare a strong manuscript and query letter, and be prepared for the editing and production process.

Related Articles:

1. Teaching American History to Young Children: Best Practices: This article explores effective teaching strategies for introducing American history concepts to young children.
1. The Power of Visual Learning in Children's History Books: This article focuses on the importance of visuals in enhancing comprehension and engagement in children's history books.
1. Avoiding Bias in Children's History Books: A Guide for Authors: This article provides guidelines on

how to ensure fairness and avoid bias when writing about historical events and figures.

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1. Developing Critical Thinking Skills Through Children's History Books: This article explores ways to use children's history books to foster critical thinking skills in young learners.

1. The Importance of Historical Accuracy in Children's Literature: This article highlights the need for accuracy and responsible representation in children's historical fiction and non-fiction.

a child's first book of american history: *A Child's First Book of American History* Earl Schenck Miers, 2013

a child's first book of american history: *A First Book in American History* Edward Eggleston, 1920

a child's first book of american history: Child Labor Hugh D Hindman, 2016-09-16 Despite its decline throughout the advanced industrial nations, child labor remains one of the major social, political, and economic concerns of modern history, as witnessed by the many high-profile stories on child labor and sweatshops in the media today. This work considers the issue in three parts. The first section discusses child labor as a social and economic problem in America from an historical and theoretical perspective. The second part presents child labor as National Child Labor Committee investigators found it in major American industries and occupations, including coal mines, cotton textile mills, and sweatshops in the early 1900s. Finally, the concluding section integrates these findings and attempts to apply them to child labor problems in America and the rest of the world today.

a child's first book of american history: These Truths: A History of the United States Jill Lepore, 2018-09-18 "Nothing short of a masterpiece." —NPR Books A New York Times Bestseller and a Washington Post Notable Book of the Year In the most ambitious one-volume American history in decades, award-winning historian Jill Lepore offers a magisterial account of the origins and rise of a divided nation. Widely hailed for its "sweeping, sobering account of the American past" (New York Times Book Review), Jill Lepore's one-volume history of America places truth itself—a devotion to facts, proof, and evidence—at the center of the nation's history. The American experiment rests on three ideas—"these truths," Jefferson called them—political equality, natural rights, and the sovereignty of the people. But has the nation, and democracy itself, delivered on that promise? *These Truths* tells this uniquely American story, beginning in 1492, asking whether the course of events over more than five centuries has proven the nation's truths, or belied them. To answer that question, Lepore wrestles with the state of American politics, the legacy of slavery, the persistence of inequality, and the nature of technological change. "A nation born in contradiction... will fight, forever, over the meaning of its history," Lepore writes, but engaging in that struggle by studying the past is part of the work of citizenship. With *These Truths*, Lepore has produced a book that will shape our view of American history for decades to come.

a child's first book of american history: Eyewitness to America David Colbert, 1998-07-28 Thomas Jefferson complains about haggling over the Declaration of Independence ... Jack London guides us through the rubble of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake ... Langston Hughes visits the Scottsboro Boys on death row ... Andy Warhol paints the scene at Studio 54 ... John Seabrook receives e-mail from Bill Gates. Three hundred eyewitnesses -- some famous, some anonymous -- give their personal accounts of the great moments that make up our past, from Columbus to cyberspace, and infuse them with a freshness and urgency no historian can duplicate. David Colbert has brought together a multitude of voices to create a singularly rich American narrative. Here are the vivid impressions of men and women who were witnesses to and participants in these and other dramatic moments: the first colony in Virginia, the Salem witch trials, the Boston Tea Party, the Oklahoma land rush, the Scopes Trial, the bombing of Nagasaki, the lunch-counter sit-ins at the outset of the civil rights movement, New York City's Stonewall Riot, the fall of Saigon, and the 1992 Los Angeles riots. With unparalleled and thrilling immediacy, these excerpts from diaries, private letters, memoirs, and newspapers paint a fascinating picture of the evolving drama of American life.

a child's first book of american history: A Child's First Book of Trump Michael Ian Black, 2016-07-05 A humorous satirical field guide for identifying and defeating a Trump when discovered in the wilds of a presidential election--

a child's first book of american history: A Child's History of the World Virgil Mores Hillyer, 1924 History is presented with a personal viewpoint of how and why it may have happened.

a child's first book of american history: The Children's Book of America William J. Bennett, 1998-11-02 Presents stories of significant events and people in American history, patriotic songs, and American folk tales and poems.

a child's first book of american history: A First Book in American History Edward Eggleston, 2018-10-12 This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the public domain in the United States

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a childs first book of american history: *Children at Play* Howard P. Chudacoff, 2008-09
Introduction: Play -- Childhood and play in colonial America -- Domesticating children, 1800-1850 -- The arrival of toys, 1850-1900 -- The invasion of children's play culture, 1900-1950 -- The golden age, 1900-1950 -- The commercialization of children's play, 1950 to the present -- Children's play goes underground, 1950 to the present -- Conclusion

a childs first book of american history: *This Country of Ours: The Story of the United States* Henrietta Elizabeth Marshall, 2018-11-02 This Country of Ours is a collection of extraordinary stories from the history of the United States beginning with accounts of exploration and settlement and ending with the presidency of Woodrow Wilson. This is a book which when you lay it down will make you say, I'm glad that I was born an American. Contents: Stories of Explorers and Pioneers How the Vikings of Old Sought and Found New Lands The Sea of Darkness and the Great Faith of Columbus How Columbus Fared Forth Upon the Sea of Darkness and Came to Pleasant Lands Beyond How Columbus Returned in Triumph How America Was Named How the Flag of England Was Planted on the Shores of the New World How the Flag of France Was Planted in Florida How the French Founded a Colony in Florida How the Spaniards Drove the French Out of Florida How a Frenchman Avenged the Death of His Countrymen The Adventures of Sir Humphrey Gilbert About Sir Walter Raleigh's Adventures in the Golden West Stories of Virginia The Adventures of Captain John Smith More Adventures of Captain John Smith How the Colony Was Saved How Pocahontas Took a Journey Over the Seas How the Redmen Fought Against Their White Brothers How Englishmen Fought a Duel With Tyranny The Coming of the Cavaliers Bacon's Rebellion The Story of the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe Stories of New England The Story of the Pilgrim Fathers The Founding of Massachusetts The Story of Harry Vane The Story of Anne Hutchinson and the Founding of Rhode Island The Founding of Harvard How Quakers First Came to New England How Maine and New Hampshire Were Founded The Founding of Connecticut and War With the Indians The Founding of New Haven The Hunt for the Regicides King Philip's War How the Charter of Connecticut Was Saved The Witches of Salem Stories of the Middle and Southern Colonies Stories of the French in America Stories of the Struggle for Liberty The Boston Tea-party Stories of the United States Under the Constitution

a childs first book of american history: *Children's Encyclopedia of American History* David C. King, 2014 Full-color maps, photographs, and paintings illustrate a comprehensive reference guide to American history.

a childs first book of american history: *American History for Kids* Stacia Deutsch, 2021-08-24 Interesting facts that teach kids ages 8 to 12 about American history Kids don't need long, boring textbooks to learn about history. Starting with America's earliest inhabitants in 20,000 BCE and finishing in the modern day, American History for Kids helps them explore America's past through memorable and exciting facts that they will love to share. This engaging look at American history for kids age 8-12 includes: 500 facts—This book introduces kids to many of the incredible things that have happened in America, one informative tidbit at a time. The complete timeline—Kids will learn all about important people, places, and events across thousands of years of American history. A leg up on learning—These facts provide kids with a head start on the topics they'll be covering in class, plus things they might not learn in school. Help history come alive with the incredible facts inside this top choice among American history books.

a childs first book of american history: *Taking Children* Laura Briggs, 2020-05-12 You have to take the children away.—Donald Trump Taking Children argues that for four hundred years the

United States has taken children for political ends. Black children, Native children, Latinx children, and the children of the poor have all been seized from their kin and caregivers. As Laura Briggs's sweeping narrative shows, the practice existed on the auction block, in the boarding schools designed to pacify the Native American population, in the foster care system used to put down the Black freedom movement, in the US's anti-Communist coups in Central America, and in the moral panic about "crack babies." In chilling detail we see how Central Americans were made into a population that could be stripped of their children and how every US administration beginning with Reagan has put children of immigrants and refugees in detention camps. Yet these tactics of terror have encountered opposition from every generation, and Briggs challenges us to stand and resist in this powerful corrective to American history.

a child's first book of american history: A Child Through Time Phil Wilkinson, 2017-11-07
An original look at history that profiles 30 children from different eras so that children of today can discover the lives of the cave people, Romans, Vikings, and beyond through the eyes of someone their own age. History books often focus on adults, but what was the past like for children? *A Child Through Time* is historically accurate and thoroughly researched, and brings the children of history to life—from the earliest civilizations to the Cold War, even imagining a child of the future. Packed with facts and including a specially commissioned illustration of each profiled child, this book examines the clothes children wore, the food they ate, the games they played, and the historic moments they witnessed—all through their own eyes. Maps, timelines, and collections of objects, as well as a perspective on the often ignored topic of family life through the ages, give wider historical background and present a unique side to history. Covering key curriculum topics in a new light, *A Child Through Time* is a perfect and visually stunning learning tool for children ages 7 and up.

a child's first book of american history: American Pioneers and Patriots Caroline Emerson, 2005-09-28 *American Pioneers & Patriots* will allow your 3rd and 4th grade students to explore America's past through the fictional accounts of typical pioneer families. Young patriots of today will gain an appreciation of the courage it took to build this great nation of ours!

a child's first book of american history: Huck's Raft Steven Mintz, 2006-04-30 Like Huck's raft, the experience of American childhood has been both adventurous and terrifying. For more than three centuries, adults have agonized over raising children while children have followed their own paths to development and expression. Now, Steven Mintz gives us the first comprehensive history of American childhood encompassing both the child's and the adult's tumultuous early years of life. Underscoring diversity through time and across regions, Mintz traces the transformation of children from the sinful creatures perceived by Puritans to the productive workers of nineteenth-century farms and factories, from the cosseted cherubs of the Victorian era to the confident consumers of our own. He explores their role in revolutionary upheaval, westward expansion, industrial growth, wartime mobilization, and the modern welfare state. Revealing the harsh realities of children's lives through history—the rigors of physical labor, the fear of chronic ailments, the heartbreak of premature death—he also acknowledges the freedom children once possessed to discover their world as well as themselves. Whether at work or play, at home or school, the transition from childhood to adulthood has required generations of Americans to tackle tremendously difficult challenges. Today, adults impose ever-increasing demands on the young for self-discipline, cognitive development, and academic achievement, even as the influence of the mass media and consumer culture has grown. With a nod to the past, Mintz revisits an alternative to the goal-driven realities of contemporary childhood. An odyssey of psychological self-discovery and growth, this book suggests a vision of childhood that embraces risk and freedom—like the daring adventure on Huck's raft.

a child's first book of american history: Grandmother Fish Jonathan Tweet, 2016-09-06
Where did we come from? It's a simple question, but not so simple an answer to explain—especially to young children. Charles Darwin's theory of common descent no longer needs to be a scientific mystery to inquisitive young readers. Meet Grandmother Fish. Told in an engaging call and response text where a child can wiggle like a fish or hoot like an ape and brought to life by vibrant artwork, *Grandmother Fish* takes children and adults through the history of life on our planet and explains

how we are all connected. The book also includes comprehensive backmatter, including: - An elaborate illustration of the evolutionary tree of life - Helpful science notes for parents - How to explain natural selection to a child

a child's first book of american history: *The Wright Brothers for Kids* Mary Kay Carson, 2003-05-01 This activity book tells the amazing true story of how two bicycle-making brothers from Ohio, with no more than high-school educations, accomplished a feat that forever changed the world. At a time when most people still hadn't ridden in an automobile, Wilbur and Orville Wright built the first powered, heavier-than-air flying machine. Woven throughout the heartwarming story of the two brothers are activities that highlight their ingenuity and problem-solving abilities as they overcame many obstacles to achieve controlled flight. The four forces of flight—lift, thrust, gravity, and drag—and how the Wright brothers mastered them are explained in clear, simple text. Activities include making a Chinese flying top, building a kite, bird watching, and designing a paper glider, and culminate with an activity in which readers build a rubber-band-powered flyer. Included are photographs just released from the Wright brothers' personal collection, along with diagrams and illustrations. The history of human flight and its pioneers, a time line, and a complete resource section for students are also provided.

a child's first book of american history: *What Does It Mean to Be American?* Rana DiOrio, Elad Yoran, 2019-03-15 An engaging picture book for children that celebrates what it means to be American--regardless of politics What does it mean to be American? Does it mean you like apple pie or fireworks? Not exactly. While politics seem to divide our country into the two opposing teams of red and blue, one truth remains: we are all Americans. But what does that mean? This continuation of the popular What Does It Mean to Be...? series provides a nonpartisan point of view perfect for any and all Americans who are proud of who they are--and where they come from, regardless of their political views. Other Titles in the What Does It Mean to Be...? Series: What Does It Mean to Be Present? What Does It Mean to Be Global? What Does It Mean to Be Kind?

a child's first book of american history: *Raising Government Children* Catherine E. Rymph, 2017-10-10 In the 1930s, buoyed by the potential of the New Deal, child welfare reformers hoped to formalize and modernize their methods, partly through professional casework but more importantly through the loving care of temporary, substitute families. Today, however, the foster care system is widely criticized for failing the children and families it is intended to help. How did a vision of dignified services become virtually synonymous with the breakup of poor families and a disparaged form of welfare that stigmatizes the women who provide it, the children who receive it, and their families? Tracing the evolution of the modern American foster care system from its inception in the 1930s through the 1970s, Catherine Rymph argues that deeply gendered, domestic ideals, implicit assumptions about the relative value of poor children, and the complex public/private nature of American welfare provision fueled the cultural resistance to funding maternal and parental care. What emerged was a system of public social provision that was actually subsidized by foster families themselves, most of whom were concentrated toward the socioeconomic lower half, much like the children they served. Analyzing the ideas, debates, and policies surrounding foster care and foster parents' relationship to public welfare, Rymph reveals the framework for the building of the foster care system and draws out its implications for today's child support networks.

a child's first book of american history: *American Baby* Gabrielle Glaser, 2021-01-26 A New York Times Notable Book The shocking truth about postwar adoption in America, told through the bittersweet story of one teenager, the son she was forced to relinquish, and their search to find each other. "[T]his book about the past might foreshadow a coming shift in the future... 'I don't think any legislators in those states who are anti-abortion are actually thinking, 'Oh, great, these single women are gonna raise more children.' No, their hope is that those children will be placed for adoption. But is that the reality? I doubt it.'"[says Glaser]" -Mother Jones During the Baby Boom in 1960s America, women were encouraged to stay home and raise large families, but sex and childbirth were taboo subjects. Premarital sex was common, but birth control was hard to get and abortion was illegal. In 1961, sixteen-year-old Margaret Erle fell in love and became pregnant. Her

enraged family sent her to a maternity home, where social workers threatened her with jail until she signed away her parental rights. Her son vanished, his whereabouts and new identity known only to an adoption agency that would never share the slightest detail about his fate. The adoption business was founded on secrecy and lies. American Baby lays out how a lucrative and exploitative industry removed children from their birth mothers and placed them with hopeful families, fabricating stories about infants' origins and destinations, then closing the door firmly between the parties forever. Adoption agencies and other organizations that purported to help pregnant women struck unethical deals with doctors and researchers for pseudoscientific assessments, and shamed millions of women into surrendering their children. The identities of many who were adopted or who surrendered a child in the postwar decades are still locked in sealed files. Gabrielle Glaser dramatically illustrates in Margaret and David's tale—one they share with millions of Americans—a story of loss, love, and the search for identity.

a child's first book of american history: The End of American Childhood Paula S. Fass, 2017-11-07 How American childhood and parenting have changed from the nation's founding to the present The End of American Childhood takes a sweeping look at the history of American childhood and parenting, from the nation's founding to the present day. Renowned historian Paula Fass shows how, since the beginning of the American republic, independence, self-definition, and individual success have informed Americans' attitudes toward children. But as parents today hover over every detail of their children's lives, are the qualities that once made American childhood special still desired or possible? Placing the experiences of children and parents against the backdrop of social, political, and cultural shifts, Fass challenges Americans to reconnect with the beliefs that set the American understanding of childhood apart from the rest of the world. Fass examines how freer relationships between American children and parents transformed the national culture, altered generational relationships among immigrants, helped create a new science of child development, and promoted a revolution in modern schooling. She looks at the childhoods of icons including Margaret Mead and Ulysses S. Grant—who, as an eleven-year-old, was in charge of his father's fields and explored his rural Ohio countryside. Fass also features less well-known children like ten-year-old Rose Cohen, who worked in the drudgery of nineteenth-century factories. Bringing readers into the present, Fass argues that current American conditions and policies have made adolescence socially irrelevant and altered children's road to maturity, while parental oversight threatens children's competence and initiative. Showing how American parenting has been firmly linked to historical changes, The End of American Childhood considers what implications this might hold for the nation's future.

a child's first book of american history: One Hundred Years of Solitude Gabriel García Márquez, 2022-10-11 Netflix's series adaptation of One Hundred Years of Solitude premieres December 11, 2024! One of the twentieth century's enduring works, One Hundred Years of Solitude is a widely beloved and acclaimed novel known throughout the world and the ultimate achievement in a Nobel Prize-winning career. The novel tells the story of the rise and fall of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendía family. Rich and brilliant, it is a chronicle of life, death, and the tragicomedy of humankind. In the beautiful, ridiculous, and tawdry story of the Buendía family, one sees all of humanity, just as in the history, myths, growth, and decay of Macondo, one sees all of Latin America. Love and lust, war and revolution, riches and poverty, youth and senility, the variety of life, the endlessness of death, the search for peace and truth—these universal themes dominate the novel. Alternately reverential and comical, One Hundred Years of Solitude weaves the political, personal, and spiritual to bring a new consciousness to storytelling. Translated into dozens of languages, this stunning work is no less than an account of the history of the human race.

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are tales of triumph—the midnight ride of Paul Revere, the Wright brothers taking to the air, Neil Armstrong’s first steps on the moon. Some are tales of tragedy—the fate of the Donner Party, the great fire in Chicago, the eruption of Mount Saint Helens. There are stories of inventors and athletes and abolitionists and artists. Stories about struggling for freedom—again and again, in so many ways. With full-color illustrations on nearly every page and short, exciting stories, this book is perfect for browsing by the entire family. Notes at the end of each story direct readers to related stories. And a guide to thematic story arcs offers readers (and teachers) an easy way to follow their particular interests throughout the book. A treasure trove of a book that belongs in every home! “This lively and engaging collection of stories recounting American history is a wonderful gift not only to the children of this country but also their parents. I can’t wait to share it with my grandchildren.” —Tom Brokaw

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deep and personal connections to more than one culture. Each of them struggled to establish a sense of self, find belonging, and feel seen. And they call themselves American enthusiastically, reluctantly, or not at all. Ranging from the heartfelt to the hilarious, their stories shine a light on a quintessentially American experience and will appeal to anyone with a complicated relationship to family, culture, and growing up.

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