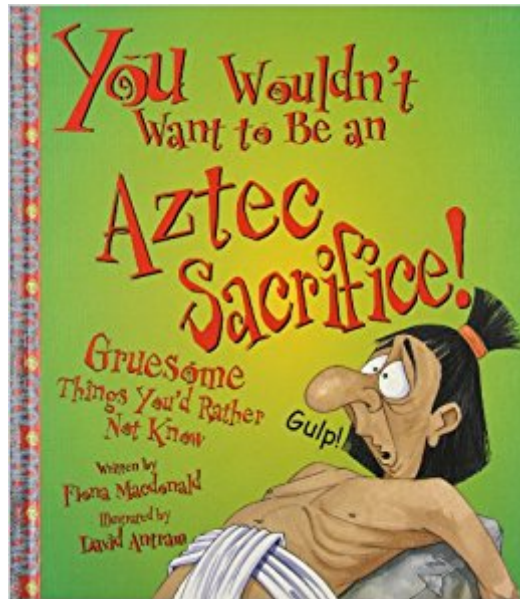




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You Wouldn't Want To Be An Aztec Sacrifice!



Synopsis

A humorous and gory look at the ancient Aztec tradition of sacrificing enemy warriors to the gods.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 840L (What's this?)

Series: You Wouldn't Want To...

Library Binding: 32 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Library Publishing (September 1, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0531146022

ISBN-13: 978-0531146026

Product Dimensions: 9.7 x 8.7 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.5 ounces

Average Customer Review: 2.8 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #623,311 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in [Books > Children's](#)

[Books > Education & Reference > History > Mexico](#) #347 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

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Age Range: 8 and up

Grade Level: 3 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 4-6-Uniform, present-tense, "you are there" discussions. These titles are somewhat jovial in their portrayals of ghastly subject matters, downplaying the horrors of human sacrifice, for example. Cartoon characters are about to have a tree fall on them in *Railroad* and find frozen bodies in the water in *Titanic*. In *Aztec Sacrifice*, "you" are a captured warrior and end up having your heart cut out as an offering to the gods. Suggestions are made as to why a warrior would not be too scared, maybe because an herbal potion could make him feel drowsy and peaceful. Every spread offers a "Handy Hint" box. In *Railroad*, "you" are advised to "Steer clear of the saloons and casinos-." In *Aztec Sacrifice*, it is suggested that "you" make offers to your city's guardian god for protection. Of the three volumes, *Aztec Sacrifice* is the most gruesome and will therefore appeal to a certain clientele. Because of its ever-popular topic, *Titanic* will have no problem finding an audience. Because of its less-gory premise, *Railroad* might need to follow on the popularity of the other two titles. Heavily illustrated, colorful, and far from dull, these titles will have little trouble grabbing readers' interest. Anne Chapman Callaghan, Racine Public Library, WI Copyright 2002 Reed

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Fiona MacDonald studied history at Cambridge University and at the University of East Anglia. She has taught in schools, adult education and university, and is the author of numerous books for children on historical topics.

Full, funny, and informative.

It was good

The book has nice pictures but depicts aztecs as horrible human race. It may be true that human sacrifices took place but I was looking for more substance. e.i. why the most beautiful civilization of modern times was built in TenochtitlÃ¡n? The society of 1515 among Mechicas was very advanced to be based on human sacrifices. Great book for those who like hating Aztecs based on one sided assumptions

My 3rd grade son brought this home from the library and we had a good time reading it together. I found it to be a creative way to get kids interested in the history you usually don't hear much about. When I was in 5th grade my family actually visited Tenochtitlan so I knew the Aztecs had used human sacrifices. I was always left with the impression that the Aztecs were blood thirsty and ruthless people. This book helped me understand that they weren't sacrificing humans out of cruelty, but because they were honoring their gods. Yeah - it was gory and kind of scary, but so were human sacrifices. This book also opened the door for a lot of great dialogue with my son and he was interested enough to want to read some of the others in the series. For those who feel the illustrations are racest, please take a look at a few other books in this series. All of the characters, from Lewis & Clark to Roman gladiators are drawn the same way - big noses, goofy faces, etc.

This book is a part of the You Wouldn't Want to Be series of children's books, created by Salariya Book Company. Like all of the books in this series, this one has lots of brightly colored illustration and gobs of great, off-beat humor. The book presents life in pre-Columbian Mesoamerica, and death as an Aztec sacrifice. It's the story of a young nobleman from an Aztec-dominated city, swept up in the Aztec's quest for more humans to sacrifice to their gods. It's hard life, being an Aztec sacrifice, and a VERY short one. This is a very funny book, one that honestly presents life in

pre-Columbian Mesoamerica, but in a fun and funny manner that makes the book a real joy to read. Yes, this is probably not a fit subject for a very young reader, but if you have a seven-year-old (or older) reader who is really interested in pre-Columbian Mexico, then steer him or her to *You Wouldn't Want to Be an Aztec Sacrifice*...they'll thank you later!

Humorous treatment of a ghastly subject...this is our first encounter with the *You Wouldn't Want To... Series*. *You Wouldn't Want to be an Aztec Sacrifice: Gruesome Things You'd Rather Not Know* is an over the top cartoonish, yet factual and upfront look at the history of Aztec sacrifice told as if YOU were there...the one being sacrificed to the Gods! This wonderful book has an introduction that gives some basic background on the Rise of the Aztec civilization, including an inset map showing the location (handy for young readers) and then a progression of chapters starting with how you would have lived (being an Aztec noble), paying tribute, being captured in a "flower battle" (nothing to do with actual flowers, heh), the long walk through the desert to the Aztec capital, how sacrifices were chosen, and goes into exactly what happens as the day of sacrifice approaches. This is a ghastly subject that is given a humorous spin, yet still manages to tell the whole story, loaded with interesting facts and tidbits about life in Mesoamerica! Each two page spread features a main narrative in addition to a set of "photo" illustrations along the bottom or side with additional information and in the top right hand corner, each has a "handy hint" to help you along the way...these hints include advice like "make an offering to the city's guardian god - he might protect you from the Aztecs" (offered on the page where the Aztecs are coming for the tribute payments or "Always keep plenty of obsidian (volcanic glass) for weapon blades. If danger threatens you won't have time to climb the volcano to get more!" Overall, I love the format and humor used to deal with a subject that might otherwise be hard to effectively teach to kids without it becoming really depressing and/or for those subjects that never seem PC, but still really, really need to be taught. I give it five stars and recommend it as part of a larger reading set on the Aztec, after your child(ren) reads some other books on the culture and history of these Mesoamericans!! Excellent text, lots of humor, and the illustrations really bring the message home and include their own humor...they really make the story!

Another funny yet useful book that teaches children about history that is part of the "You wouldn't want to be" series. The illustrations are comical but hardly accurate. I don't believe the illustrators intent was historical accuracy but rather to capture the funny bone and imagination of the young student. The big noses may be offensive to some racial sensitive types but if you go beyond that the

book is quite good. The illustrations remind me of those that can be found in *Mad* which was a favorite of mine as a child. This particular book has many outstanding illustrations to compliment the written details of Aztec life. The gruesome topic of human sacrifice is dealt with with humor. This book is a good introduction to Aztec life but you wouldn't want to be a Aztec sacrifice unless you don't mind going through some rather dreadful scenes. In the end your spirit may become a butterfly and everyone will admire your beauty. A good learning tool for teachers and students alike, this book is recommended for K-6 and community libraries.

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