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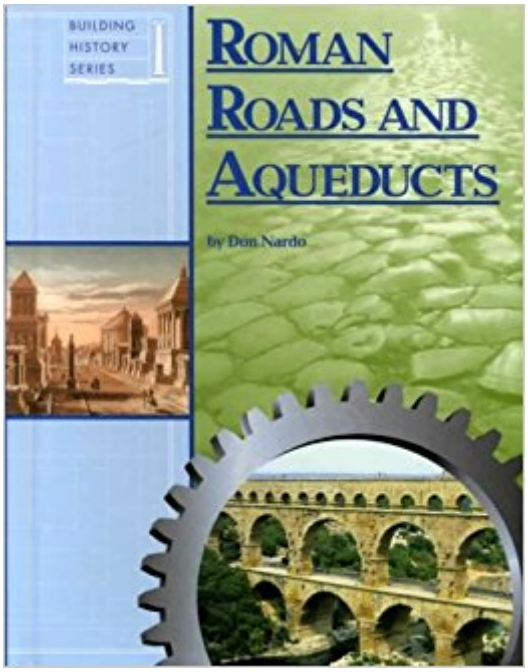

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Synopsis

The Romans were the most spectacular builders of the ancient world. And among their most magnificent and enduring works were thousands of miles of roads and aqueducts that carried vital trade goods, news, and life-giving water to millions of people.

Book Information

Age Range: 12 and up

Series: Building History

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Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up-This well-researched account is packed with detailed information about the technical principles of construction, architectural features, and maintenance of these important ancient structures. In-depth discussions about the design of bridges and tunnels are also included. Extensive use of quotes from primary and secondary sources present interesting descriptions of life and customs along the road and the problems that needed to be addressed-both technical and administrative-to make these structures possible. Sidebars provide biographical material about major designers and builders. The generally small black-and-white diagrams, photographs, and reproductions are informative but bland. Overall, a well-organized, lucidly written resource.-Cynthia M. Sturgis, Ledding Library, Milwaukie, ORCopyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

"Explains how architectural decisions were made in response to changing technologies and tastes as the structures were built, destroyed, and rebuilt. She presents additional material in sidebars

about the...specific architectural features, and important individuals." -- School Library Journal (September 2001) (School Library Journal 20010901)"A variety of illustrations and contemporary remarks about the building complement and enhance the text." -- Calliope (April 2002) (UNKNOWN 20020401)"This well-researched account is packed with detailed information about the technical principles of construction, architectural features, and maintenance of these important...structures. Extensive use of quotes from primary and secondary sources present interesting descriptions of life and customs...and the problems that needed to be addressed - both technical and administrative - to make these structures possible. Sidebars provide biographical material about major designers and builders. Overall, a well-organized, lucidly written resource." -- School Library Journal (March 2001) (School Library Journal 20010301)

Somewhat basic - It is okay - but more suited for younger students. I was hoping for greater detail.

Kids LOVE aqueducts! This one has been used almost daily since I got it a month ago for a student project on Roman buildings and construction.

Once again, historian Don Nardo has turned out an information-filled,useful, and just plain interesting study of an aspect of ancient times. His discussion of Roman roads, aqueducts, and bridges is extremely well researched, clearly written, and his many details and anecdotes about how people used these facilities is highly entertaining. Included are discussions of tunnels through mountainsides and the difficulties of keeping them straight, the probelm of people diverting and stealing water from the aqueducts (and the penalities they received when caught), the gangs of slaves who maintained these facilities (with tomb epitaphs they left behind), the scaffolding used by Roman construction workers, and much much more. Along with Nardo’s other books, this one deserves to be in every library and classroom.

A really well written account of two of the famous cosntructions of the ancient Romans- roads and aqueducts, though there’s a lot more included in this thoughtful book. It also discuses bridges and their construction,as well as inns and stables along the roadways, maps and guidebooks, postal services, and much more. Written for high schhol students but very informative for anyone interested in the topic!

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