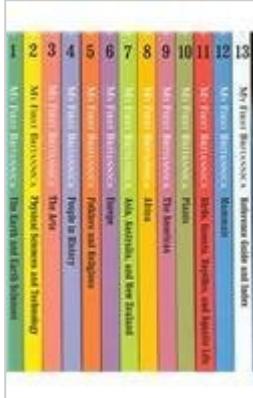


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### Editorial Review

#### From School Library Journal

Grade 3-6—Though the title of this thematically arranged set may imply a reference tool for beginning readers, it is actually best suited for older elementary-age browsers. Most subjects are covered in a single spread—one page of text opposite a color photo or computer-generated picture. Subject headings are clearly displayed and entries feature mini-quizzes, fun facts, and cross-references. The first volume covers "The Earth and Earth Sciences"; other volumes include "Physical Sciences and Technology," "The Arts," "People in History," "Folklore and Religions," continents, plants, and animals. There is some overlap in the listings—many creative artists are found in "People in History" rather than with their colleagues in "The Arts." Coverage of the continents includes country listings and famous attractions. Less proficient readers will appreciate the large print and bolded vocabulary words, which are explained in a glossary at the back of each volume. The final volume contains a brief atlas, a comprehensive glossary, and a cumulative index. What most distinguishes this set from others is the "cross-cultural, international perspective" it embraces, apparent in the artists and people it celebrates. Children read about Basho, haiku poet from Japan; Hassan Fathy, Egyptian architect; Wole Soyinka, black African Nobel Prize for Literature winner; and Rabindranath Tagore, poet laureate of India. While easier and more appealing than the *Grolier Student Encyclopedia* (2003), it is less comprehensive than the *World Book Student Discovery Encyclopedia* (2003). An attractive, though not essential addition.—Barbara Auerbach, *New York City Public Schools*

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#### From [Booklist](#)

The 12 main volumes of this work are designed to engage children ages 7 to 11 who are interested in developing their background knowledge on broad topics like technology, people and culture, places, and science. Each volume is devoted to a specific area of study, for example, *The Arts*, *People in History*, and *mammals*. Entire volumes are devoted to Africa, the Americas, and Europe, but Asia, Australia, and New Zealand share a single volume. Coverage is representative rather than comprehensive. For example, the "Literature" section in *The Arts* volume has entries for nine writers, among them Basho, Emily Dickinson, and Wole Soyinka.

The style is chatty and informative, and the 525 topical articles are longer than those in many introductory encyclopedias. Each article in each approximately 100-page volume covers two pages, one page of text and one large, generally attractive color illustration or photograph. The "Search Light" feature contained in each article helps focus the user's attention on an important fact, and the "Learn More" feature provides access to information on the topic in other volumes. Each volume has its own table of contents and glossary, and some volumes contain stories as well as articles. Volume 5, *Folklore and Religions*, has the added bonus of stories from sources as varied as the Kalilah wa Dimnah, Korea, Australia, and Nigeria, and Inuit, Cherokee, Mayan, and ancient Greek cultures, but it does not contain any source notes. Volume 13 offers maps and a glossary as well as an integrated index.

Essentially this work is designed for browsing and not arranged for library reference. Its thematic arrangement makes it difficult to find those quick answers one normally associates with reference work. Nevertheless, it does contain information that would be useful to young readers. Public and school libraries with large collections may want to purchase this for their circulating collections. For the same audience, the alphabetically arranged *Grolier Student Encyclopedia* [RBB My 15 04] offers a more encyclopedic treatment. *Dona Helmer*

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