



A Street Through Time

Anne Millard

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A 12,000 year walk through history

A Street Through Time Details

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From Reader Review A Street Through Time for online ebook

Lora says

This is a large sized but thin book chock full of hours and hours and hours of me-time. The kids have pored over this book to the point that the detailed and complicated pictures absolutely must visit them in their dreams. I know I've spent some time enjoying the book, myself. Each two page spread is an amazingly detailed historical conjecture of a certain place along a certain river bank. The actual place made be made up, but there is still a lot of history here. Each page after the next advances the same spot through time, over hundreds of years. There is a time travelling professor to hunt for on each page. The text actually adds yet another layer of cleverness because it is wrapped around the margins to save more space for the pictures. This book is part history, part game, part childhood imagination.

Now one little quibble: when I bought the book, I marked a naked woman with a blue marker so it looked like she was wearing a dress like the others. You see, the scene was a viking raid, and she was running naked from an invading viking. I couldn't be sure what questions would come up when, but I didn't see why I had to set myself up for that. I wasn't interested in explaining rape to such young children. With the figure dressed, it was a much simpler matter of an invader wanting to be hurtful in vague ways. I mean, really, my kids had already been through some school, they were quite familiar with people wanting to hurt them. I altered the picture to match the understanding of children. We have had this book for years and the kids have gotten so much out of it. Why the illustrators felt that was needful in a childrens' book mystifies me.

And I had no problem with the two page spread of the Black Death. Or the little detail of a man sitting on a chamber pot. Those were actually interesting and related to the experience of children- as in, death, sickness, and going to the bathroom. Those are examples of great scenes that opened up long conversations.

My me-time was when I got a chance to look at the book and linger over it the way the kids did, lol.

Becky says

I don't remember who gave this book to my kids (or even which kid actually received it, come to think of it), but I owe them a debt. It's a fabulous picture book that packs a tremendous amount of history into just a few pages! The illustrations are wonderful, and you could spend a good chunk of time just looking at them and discussing them with the child of your choice before you even get around to reading the text. Once you do read it, however, you'll need to spend another chunk of time looking again, because Anne Millard gives you even more things to look for--some that even involve going a few hundred years back looking for clues to things you'll find happening in the future. This book has so much in it to engage the reader, I suspect he or she won't even realize that they're actually--gasp!--learning something along the way. Now that my kids are beyond the picture book stage--or so they tell me, anyway--I've actually brought this one to school for my junior high classroom. There's so much in it to support things I teach in sixth and seventh grade social studies...plus, if students have nothing better to do, I can always suggest they try out the "Where's Waldo"-style hunt on each page, looking for the time-traveling historian Henry Hyde. :)

Julie Suzanne says

I wish I wish I wish that I had this book when my son was in elementary school! He was the type of child who obsessed over visual details (possibly an ADHD thing), and this book would have occupied him for

hours and hours. Fascinating history presented in such a unique way, perfect for visual learners. I loved it myself, although I was less interested in the visual candy. Readers see how one little spot on the side of a river has changed over history (thousands of years). Detail worshipers can identify what is where now in each age, and potty humor is indulged. Almost every page/era will show a little person going to the bathroom (and it's fascinating to see how their circumstances changed over time!) and there's a time traveler Where's Waldo style hiding in each time period to reward the visual puzzle appreciating child. You can spend an hour just studying one 2-page spread. The educational benefits of seeing history presented in this way.... I just can't say enough about how brilliant this book is. If a copy existed in 2007, I'd have brought it with us everywhere we went. Of course, I'm talking about a time before iPads were the sole babysitter in all situations requiring a child to be occupied or quiet. I wish I could be the time traveler and bring this delightful read back to my seven-year-old boy.

Perfect for elementary school kids who are interested in learning and/or enjoy visual challenges.

Benjamin Bookman says

My new favorite "kids" book. This short and simple book entertained me for a full 4 hours. I feel like the integration of not only text, images, but also the forward and backwards connection were unique.

Dorothy says

This is a great oversize book with a plethora of details of land grows into a settlement, a village, and eventually a modern city as different periods of time pass and a new age begins. The illustrations are amazingly detailed, which will give hours of exploration for the readers. The notes about specific feature in each page spread helps define little facts pertinent to that time period.

Only downside to the book: In the last few pages, where the book gives a timeline of important events in world history it states, in the Late 1800's section, that in the year "1858 Gold is discovered in California, triggering the Gold Rush." What happened to the discovery in 1848 and the 1849 Gold Rush and the 49ers?!

Small detail, sure, but a mistake nonetheless. All in all it's still a fun book for young readers.

Melki says

This is an AWESOME book!

Steve Noon's illustrations tell most of the story as author Millard guides you through the changes that occur in one small area of our planet - from 10,000 BC to the present day.

First Farmers (2000 BC)

The words at the borders of the pages tell interesting tidbits about the "street's" current inhabitants, and offer suggestions for things to look for - kind of a historical Where's Waldo? hunt. And though he's not wearing a striped sweater and pompom hat, there's a time traveling museum employee hidden in every picture.

Medieval Village (1200s)

Believe me, you'll find yourself poring over each page.

Suzanne Jordan says

Beginning with the Stone Age in 10,000 BCE, Millard explores the basic aspects of human culture describing food gathering, pets, tools, and forest spirits. As we move through the First Farmers and then the Iron Age, we start to see the development of livestock, grain crops, woolen clothing, and fancier boats. With each passing era, buildings change from thatch to wood to brick and back to wood again after the Roman times. Politics change from small nomadic groups to villages run by chiefs and later by lords who build castles to protect the area. The street travels through the Roman times, Barbarian and Viking raiders, a medieval village, the plague, elegance of the 1700s, grime of the industrial 1800s and finally ends with a modern city street. Noon's illustrations include it all begging the reader to find the details identified in the top and bottom cutaway scenes. You might see a brawl in the local pub, a Viking raid, people dying from the plague, slaves in chains, or toilets throughout the centuries. Also hidden among the scenes is Henry Hyde, the time traveler who appears in each new time period. Classic DK mixed with I Spy makes for an excellent book to explore one street's evolution over time. Readers will return over and over again to glean new tidbits about the street's 12,000 year history.

Elizabeth says

Great pictures!

Sarah says

I would love to have a copy of this book. It is one of those that you pick up and can't put down. Fascinating, it's wonderful to imagine all that has transpired in a particular site over time. Great to have lying around in the classroom for students to peruse at their leisure.

Harriet Themans says

One of my all time favourite books. Detailed illustrations allow children to visualise what the world looked like through the ages .

Emma Dickinson says

I have been lucky enough to find myself a copy of this amazing book which I will be using in my Year 3 class next term. It offers an insight into the changing landscape from 10,000 bc through to modern(ish) times. The attention to detail is mind blowing and it is the type of book you will always notice something new every time you read it. Munchkin (5) was fascinated to spot bare bottoms as people went about their ablutions and was shocked that people didn't have a bath in their homes. This is a must for any stage in ks2 history curriculum as it offers a real insight into how people lived, but also the impact each stage in our history had on the next.

Susan says

An illustrated history of a fictional ~two block area in England from prehistory through the present. It shows population expansion and contraction through conquest, invasion, plague, technological innovation, what have you. What's cool is that each illustration is of this same patch of ground with foreground structures in cross-section so you see buildings built, torn down or repurposed, scavenged as ruins or renovated down the centuries. Like the guys digging out a basement who found the treasure that you saw a guy bury in the floor of his house during a viking attack years (pages) before. It's already a large format book but I wish it were bigger so you could see the detailed illustrations better. Maybe that's just me because I'm old. Kids with better eyesight might not find it a problem.

Diz says

This really gets kids to think about the passage of time and how different ages relate to each other. My son focused particularly on the stone circle and was excited to see it appear in different ages and then felt sad when it disappeared.

DBecks says

This book was in the classroom when I was in the fourth grade. Every time the teacher sent us on our own devices, I always picked this book up. I liked it so much I asked the teacher if I could borrow it and bring it home with me. I looked it over so many times at home that I ended up ripping out one of the pages by accident, *whoops*.

This book has rich and detailed illustrations. It invites its readers to imagine a river bank, from humanity's nascent civilization, perched along the riverbanks, it grows and declines, grows and declines, eventually blooming into a fully functional urban cityscape that we all see today.

The book covers an ancient period, that gets colonized by the Romans, which eventually collapses, vikings invade. The black death strikes, religious factions war over the town. Eventually the industrial revolution comes and the city has a Dickensian character about it, before giving way to the gilded age and then eventually to modernity.

This is obviously a children book. Since most my childhood books were destroyed or otherwise gone missing, I intend fully to pass this down the family bloodline. I hope they cherish it as much as I did in my childhood days.

Judy says

The first 'Waldo' came out in 1987, and since then we've accumulated several more Search & Find books. But, this book is a favorite because it provides a window into the past. Starting with the stone age, and ending with the present era, there are 15 views of a riverside street. If I were to guess a location, I'd say London. (Maybe a location is mentioned or alluded to in the book; I don't remember.)

It's totally engrossing to watch buildings come and go, bridges get sturdier, castles appear (only to fall to ruin in the future), and the people scurrying to do their various tasks. In the 1500s, the 'Plague Strikes' and that has been a favorite in our family.

This is a wonderful book to share with a child of any age.
