



George Washington's World

Genevieve Foster , Joanna Foster

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This Newbury Honor book will not only deepen your fondness and respect for the Father Of Our Nation, but will acquaint you with the great contemporaries of Washington from around the world. Learn about the fascinating lives of the great philosophers, musicians and inventors of the 1700 s. Recommended in Laura Berquist Syllabus Grade 5 Author: Genevieve Foster Grade: 4-8 Pages: 355, Paperback Publisher: Beautiful Feet Books ISBN: 096438034X

George Washington's World Details

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From Reader Review George Washington's World for online ebook

Malaina says

Eh, I was just kinda reading it for school, but as I got deeper into it, I kinda started to like it, and it felt like the book was never going to end!

I was surprised it was not only about, George Washington, but other important people, and their lives. I very much recommend to anyone who likes history.

Amy Meyers says

We read this to supplement our history curriculum this year. It was wonderful in parts (I'm thinking of Marie Antoinette and parts about Washington in the War), but it could be confusing going between the characters and stories. I prefer Story of the World, but that's more for younger grades. This is an interesting series for junior high or high school as a supplement. I'd rate it 3.5. It was definitely better than Caesar's World, but I can tell the author has some biases I wouldn't agree with.

The other John says

This is the first of Genevieve Foster's *World of...* books, where the author not only recounts the life of a famous person, but also takes a look at what was happening around the world during their lifetime. In this case we get a peek into the world between the years of 1732 and 1799. It's an engaging book. Ms. Foster presents the information in a nice, storytelling style. I also enjoyed the illustrations, though they vaguely reminded me of the early *Wonder Woman* comics. The one odd thing about the copy I read is that it had been "expanded" in 1997 by Genevieve's daughter, Joanna. While the extra information, adding the contribution of non-white guys, makes for a richer book, you can sort of see the "seams" of the expansion. The flow between those sections and the older material doesn't always go smoothly. I think it becomes especially notable when slavery is mentioned. In some parts, a person's slaves are mentioned as a matter of course, in others, the notion of slavery is roundly condemned. But that's a small blemish in an otherwise excellent book. Whether it's for your kids or yourself, take time to check it out.

Monica Fastenau says

Read the full review here: <http://newberyandbeyond.com/newbery-r...>

This book offers information on the leaders and events around the world during the 1700s. Although you might think from the title that this book focuses mainly on American history, that's not the case. Each chapter focuses on a different character from history, from Catherine the Great to George III to John and Abigail Adams. Although the Revolutionary War is the main event, the French Revolution, the Seven Years War, and other events and leaders from Russia to China to Australia to Africa are also included. The book is full of great drawings, maps, and musical snippets, so there's a lot of visual interest (important in a history book of this length!).

At first I was put off by the cheery way most events and people are talked about (war, slavery, colonization, etc.), but later I started to appreciate the subtlety—none of the people discussed were wholly bad or good, and the author doesn't shy away from mentioning the less savory aspects of our forefathers' lives, even if she doesn't dwell on them. The other thing I love about this book is that it was updated by the author's daughter to add diversity. This book does a better job of discussing the roles of women, Native Americans, and African-Americans during this time period than you would expect, and I really appreciated that.

Christy says

This is one of a whole series of books that tell what was going on in the world at the time of a significant historical figure. I would give the whole series 3 ½ stars if I could. These books are great for a general picture of history, but obviously not for in depth study. We read these aloud, over a period of several weeks. Because of the way the book is laid out, it can be several days before a story is revisited. I often would have to remind the boys where the previous story left off before continuing. I think this can be confusing at times for them, and I'm sure all the stories didn't get connected in their minds. These books are better given to the child who is a fast reader.

Helena Sorensen says

Such an outstanding series.

Gina Johnson says

AmblesideOnline year 4 book. Foster's histories use short stories to tell about the things happening around the world during the lives of famous people.

Ebookwormy1 says

We loved this book from the moment we read the first paragraph. There are two ways to approach history, the chronological and topical. Ms. Foster's work is a welcome contribution to the topical approach.

While people unfamiliar with her format may assume the entire book is about Washington, it is really more about "his world". The introduction, which uses Washington's birth year, 1732 as a starting point, describes Washington's birth and family. From here, the book is divided into 5 sections. Each section features biography of Washington, but also chapters on the various people and events shaping the world in his time. This assists the student in contemplating what the world looked like *to a person living in that time*. Really masterful work.

People used to the topical approach may be frustrated by not having the entire story of Washington or Catherine the Great or John Adams told topically. But for the chronological study, this approach is a gold mine that highlights to even very young students that people's lives develop over time. The waiting to hear

about a favorite character again is motivating to the student, while also causing them to contemplate the passage of years between stories (as well as cultivate patience!).

The line drawings are a nice enhancement and we have photocopied some for coloring while reading. The maps have been particularly useful as they seem to cover multiple sections. While they are, perhaps, not engaging enough for a child to sit beside the reader, they do make a nice complement to the text.

I highly recommend this book, and look forward to buying and utilizing other works by Genevieve Foster.

Please note: The bottom bar on this book says "Expanded Edition by Joanna Foster", so I am assuming additional chapters have been added beyond the initial publication.

Madalynn Parker says

I had to read this book for school, it is the third book by Genevieve Foster that I have read. I loved the first two and this one was no different! I really like her writing style and how clearly she tells the stories. She writes her books almost as if they are storybooks, rather than giving you a bunch of random and confusing facts (like most history textbooks these days). These are some of my favorite history books, and I have read A LOT of history books! The last one that I have to read for school is "Abraham Lincoln's World", and I am really looking forward to it! All in all, I'd say this is a great book to read for school or even for fun! :) I highly recommend it!

Karol says

This is actually quite a long book, but I was completely caught up in it. I actually read in one sitting! I loved the broad sweep of history it gave, across the Americas, Europe, and China, with brief mentions of Japan, India, and Australia too. I made connections between events and people that I had never realized before.

Most history books, it seems to me, look in-depth at one event or a short period of time, in a specific geographical location. Or, in textbooks, chapters are divided up that way. Foster's approach, instead, looks at things very broadly, but not in a lot of depth.

I loved making connections that I'd never made before as Foster shifted from one place to another. (For example, that Johann Sebastian Bach was still living when Washington was born).

One surprise for me was the role that Germans played in the American Revolution. George II was German and in fact barely learned to speak English at all. And then, when England could not find enough men to fight in the war, it hired Germans (Hessians) to fight for them. These were the troops that Washington defeated at the Delaware River.

Because of the broad sweep, there were a lot of unanswered questions in my mind. (Like, how did the

German George II become King of England in the first place?) But these I can seek out separately. What I gained was a better understanding of how people and events overlapped across the globe during this period of time.

While it was written for children, I'm not sure how many would have soaked it in from cover to cover as I did. But it's certainly a great resource and I'm glad my library has retained a copy of this older work. It surely must have been an ambitious undertaking for the author.

Melissa says

This is one of the books that I'm reading for my Newbery Challenge; it's nonfiction, history to be exact - somewhat rare among the Newberys. Written in 1941 it was an honor book in 1942 and is an enjoyable read. I like the historical approach a lot, Foster is all about the interconnections so this is not just US history. She touches on events from around the world; given the time she was writing, it's not surprising that she's Western-centric. She is also not without opinions: dislikes the French, really likes the Germans (a bit of a surprise given she was writing in 1941), admires the Chinese emperor, the First Peoples are honorable savages but their land really belonged to the whites, and the Virginians are planters. Planters. Let it sink in. I wouldn't have blinked at that as a child, probably not even as a college student although I have always known the Founding Fathers kept slaves. I just never really thought much about it just like most white Americans. (Thank you Lin-Manuel Miranda. I have just listened to Hamilton again to remind me that the truth has several sides.) There is very little mention of slavery (predominantly how Africans were willing to sell Africans into slavery, how John Paul Jones hated serving on a slave ship, and one mention of slaves in the Caribbean with reference to Hamilton's childhood) and almost none in relation to the Colonies and the new United States. Washington (and Jefferson) had servants by and large: the woman who squealed over him when he was born (midwife/mammy?), Black Peter who admired how he could ride as a boy, Old Bishop who saluted him when he arrived home after the war, and the mammy who stood beside his granddaughter Nelly at Mount Vernon's door. The southern states (except VA) barely get a mention and none with respect to the Declaration. From other reviews I see that this book is being used in home-schooling and that worries me a bit because I'm doubtful that other sources will be used to off-set the mid-20th c biases inherent in this book (I suspect that it's being used specifically for those biases). I read this for my Newbery Challenge and my 2017 Reading Challenge (Read World 52)

Luann says

This is really a remarkable idea for a history book. Genevieve Foster explains in clear, simple language and nice, short chapters the events and people that were noteworthy in George Washington's world - which includes leaders of countries, scientists, soldiers, inventors, philosophers and many others around the world. Each chapter begins with an illustrated two-page spread introducing the people living and the events that took place during that particular time in George Washington's life.

It took me a while to make much headway through this book. I think it was partly due to the short chapters and the switch to a new topic or person with each chapter. It was too easy to read just a chapter or two and then find something else to do or another book to read. Also, I was expecting to read a bit more about George Washington and his life. He is included, of course, but it feels like during much of the book he is merely the device to introduce other people or events. But as I continued to read, I was captured more and more with the

events and the flow of history. I enjoyed Foster's explanations of the historical context of events and the reasons behind many of the political decisions made. I was particularly caught up in her descriptions of the French Revolution. And, of course, I did learn a lot about George Washington himself. I wish the book had a bibliography or an explanation of Foster's research for the book. I would love to know how many books she read or consulted in her research.

This won a Newbery Honor award in 1942. Was it a popular book with children back then? I don't know, but I'm sure it didn't hold a candle to another Newbery Honor that same year: *Little Town on the Prairie*. This would be a great book for students to gain some perspective on history during George Washington's life, but I think it would be a hard book to sell to most students these days. I will soon be reading Foster's *Abraham Lincoln's World* which also won a Newbery Honor. 3.5 stars.

Molly Gartland says

Again, global in extent and engaging with a storylike narrative. An excellent text for advanced elementary school or middle school students.

Laura says

Insightful to the happenings around the world during the start of our country.

Sarah says

My little brother read this book for school and totally hated it. I assured him that there was no way that it way that it could be as bad as he thought, and decided to read it for myself.

In all honesty, this book could have been really great. Foster has a really vivid writing style, and you learn about a lot of interesting people. The thing that made this book boring and hard to understand was the way the sections were set up. The book would tell you a tiny bit about one person and then a tiny bit about another person, then another person and so on. When the book finally gets back to the original person you can't remember what they did in the last section. By the middle of the book I had lost nearly all interest and ended up skimming. This book would have been wonderful if they had just arranged the stories better.

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