



# Knight

*Christopher Gravett*

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## **Knight** Christopher Gravett

Detailed photographs trace the origins, heyday, and eventual decline of knighthood, chivalry, and the feudal system. Discover how armor was made, how men became knights, and what life in a medieval castle was like. "Great for reluctant readers."--*School Library Journal*.

## **Knight Details**

Date : Published June 25th 2007 by DK Children (first published January 1st 1960)

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Author : Christopher Gravett

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Genre : History, Nonfiction, Reference, Childrens, Historical, Medieval



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# From Reader Review Knight for online ebook

## Amber says

Eyewitness Books always offer such wonderful photos and tidbits of information and this one was no different. Although I found the CD-rom of clipart pointless.

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## Nicola Mansfield says

Reason for Reading: Ds loves the Eyewitness Books and I bought this one for him as a reward for something he accomplished. We took a break from our regular history read aloud and I read a two-page spread from this to him every "school" day.

Ds loved the book! What is there \*not\* to love about an Eyewitness Book?! The pictures and photography are excellent; these just make for wonderful coffee table books for any ages. Ds likes swords (he has a life-size toy collection) and weaponry (before guns) and I think this inspires his interest in Knights. He sits riveted beside me while I read the text and makes sure I read every caption to every picture. He learned a lot from this book and he brought to the table his own knowledge which was expanded upon. A definite 5\* rating from him. I also thought the book was well done. Since the information was all mostly pre-1550, the inescapable Christian content that accompanies this topic was for the majority unbiased and presented simply as it was in the day. For example the Crusades are given straightforwardly from the knights point of view without any modern relativism. The bias came in when discussing specifically Catholic issues, which of course, every Christian was, pre-Reformation. Some statements on the Knights Templar were simply untrue. For example the king of France's vendetta against them wasn't mentioned at all and there were other remarks, that as a Catholic, I had to stop and say this is not exactly true and explain the whole story. I take a mark off and give a rating of 4 because of this. However I do expect this, as I don't expect a mainstream publisher to present Catholic history without a bias. I also am irritated with the use of CE instead of AD, and usually just chuck books by publishers who use it as it is the first sign that historical revisionism will be in place, but as noted above I respect DK Publishing and find they publish Christian information and material quite well for the most part.

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## Timothy Boyd says

OK I know these are supposed to be kid books but they are awesome! Great pictures and just enough text to make you want to learn more. Great choices for a beginning history reader or to start an older reader out in a new area. Every time I pick one of these up and read it I learn new things. Highly Recommended

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## Baby Adam says

I really enjoyed the format of this book. It's like walking around a museum and looking at cool things. But all from the comfort of your own bed. Little Napton was especially impressed with the book, as he usually

sleeps through museum trips (although he says he doesn't remember too much, other than there being a big wall sconce, or something, which looked like it could be fun to have a nap in. Oh no! <3

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### **Penny Johnson says**

Reading this book is like taking a walk through the medieval section of a museum. With photographs, live models, and period artwork, the reader easily gets a thorough education regarding the time period. This book can be enjoyed on two levels. The photos are large and colorful; the reader can simply browse through the book and learn a great deal. The generous text makes the book into an encyclopedia. The reader can spend time reading everything from front to back, or he can find a specific topic in the index or table of contents. Thus the book appeals to both visual and read/write learners.

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### **Mackenzie says**

this book was absolutely great for reference but not so good for enjoyment or a non-fiction story.

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### **PWRL says**

SM

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### **Keith S says**

I like this book because

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### **Lance says**

*"After the Battle of Hastings, Duke William brought the knight, the castle, and the feudal system to England."*

From some troublesome Vikings paid off with Normandy, to the high philosophical ideals of mercy and devotion to the needs of the physically weak, it's hard not to be fascinated by the history and traditions surrounding Medieval knights. These *Eyewitness Books* are an innovative combination of authentic museum artefacts from around the world presented in high-quality illustrations with captions that can be browsed in any order. When I was a child I was enraptured by the *Minerals and Gemstones* Eyewitness book that my dad gave me. So a volume on knights could not disappoint!

*"The rules of chivalry dictated that knights should show courtesy to defeated enemies, but this code was not always observed."*

Despite a long-term obsession with all things Arthurian (let's be honest, that means Sir Lancelot), I still managed to learn new things from this book. The technical terms were helpful, for example, I can finally say I now know what is going on when fantasy characters get hit in battle and can't fight back because their vambrace has been warped (part of a suit of armour which protects the biceps). I know that early spiked

maces were known as "nobbles", and that when plate armour superseded coats of mail, the weapon of choice changed from the double-edged slicing blade to a pointed piercing sword. I saw an amazing shaffron (armour for a horse's head) with a sharp unicorn's horn mounted on the forehead. In addition to some fun esoterica, such as the swan badge for the princes of Wales dating back to the House of Lancaster, foot jousts being carried out over a barrier, or even crazier, from two colliding row boats, that gold can never be used on silver in heraldry, and I also appreciated the inclusion of Japanese samuri.

*"Heavily armed squadrons of knights could not break the disciplined ranks of infantry."*

Sadly, all things must come to an end. Even the great era of battling knights which has never lost its romanticism in 600 years. At times the artefact style left this book impersonal and lacking in a sense of time or historical narrative, so *Horrible Histories* will always be needed in conjunction with these books for getting children interested in history. I will also briefly complain that the main reason for heraldic seals was to avoid forgery not compensate for illiteracy, the objects on a coat-of-arms should be named in English in conventional heraldry, and that the actor dressed as the knight could have been more handsome. But then again, maybe I'm just grumpy because the great age of chivalry has come to an end.

Thank you for going to an Eyewitness virtual museum quest with me, Adam! We even managed to read it before the due date of November 6th! (after about six extensions ...) I hope that we can enjoy many more children's books from the library soon.

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### **Scotty says**

It was OK. Just some quick highlights on knighthood. Since I am a big fan of the Song of Ice and Fire series, I thought I would brush up on knighthood terminology.

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### **Megan Guertler says**

i thought this book was interesting to look at but would never be my first choice to read. i thought it was extremely informational and great for learning. i would defiantly want to have this book in class, there is so many different activities that can go along with this book!

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### **Rebekah Jacobs says**

I chose to read this informational text because when I was little, my brother would read Eyewitness Books and memorize all the information. I never really got into them as a kid, so I decided to stretch my typical choice of books and explore this one. I will admit, this book still was not a style that captured my attention but I did enjoy learning about knights - which I have always found fascinating. Seeing pictures that represented things, people, and events that actually existed added to my interest, and I feel that this book would teach students about history, engage them in something they might be interested in, and speak to the student who prefers informational text over fiction.

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