



Don't Know Much about World Myths, , Kenneth C. Davis, Baker & Taylor, CATS, 2009, 1442046422, 9781442046429, . Offers a question-and-answer format to introduce young readers to myths and legends from around the world, including stories from the Mediterranean world, the Far East, Africa, Europe, and the Americas..

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Don't Know Much About George Washington , Kenneth C. Davis, Jan 1, 2003, Juvenile Nonfiction, 128 pages. Examines the childhood and youth, education, early surveying career, life in the military, and presidency of George Washington..

Mythology tales of ancient civilizations, Timothy Roland Roberts, Morgan J. Roberts, Brian P. Katz, 2003, Social Science, 448 pages. .

Larousse world mythology , Pierre Grimal, 1965, Social Science, 560 pages. Myths, cults, and rites of every land illustrated in color and black and white..

National Geographic Essential Visual History of World Mythology , National Geographic, 2008, Reference, 480 pages. Complemented by more than one thousand full-color illustrations and photographs, a detailed survey of creation stories and myths from around the world ranges from ancient ....

Mythical Journeys, Legendary Quests , Moyra Caldecott, Jun 1, 2007, , 196 pages. Get ready for adventure! From great literary masterpieces to those anonymous stories passed down by word of mouth during generations of tribal gatherings, here are some of the ....

The Golden Bough A Study in Magic and Religion, James George Frazer, 1993, Religion, 756 pages. Presents an abridged version of Frazer's classic study of the origins of magic and religion.

The Macmillan illustrated encyclopedia of myths & legends , Arthur Cotterell, 1989, , 260 pages. A guide to myths and legends. Lists entries for 1,250 characters and their origins..

Myths and legends from ancient Greece and around the world , , 2000, Social Science, 153 pages. .

The Complete Idiot's Guide to World Mythology , Evans Lansing Smith, Nathan Robert Brown, 2008, Social Science, 338 pages. An informative overview of world mythological traditions examines the gods and goddesses, heroes and heroines, monsters and angels of myths from every region of the world ....

The Artsy Smartsy Club , Daniel Pinkwater, May 10, 2005, Juvenile Fiction, 176 pages. After three Hoboken children and their giant chicken Henrietta begin to appreciate beautiful sidewalk art, they venture into art class and visits to Manhattan..

Hamlet , Kenneth Branagh, 1996, Performing Arts, 208 pages. The screenplay based on the play by William Shakespeare is accompanied by a behind-the-scenes look at its rehearsal and filming.

A Dictionary of World Mythology , Arthur Cotterell, Apr 17, 1986, Political Science, 314 pages. An illustrated reference to the myths and mythological figures of the world's major cultures surveys Greek, Roman, and Norse deities and the gods of Buddhist and Hindu India ....

The Idiot, Book 2 , Fyodor Dostoyevsky, 1977, , 356 pages. .

Plant Propagation , Philip McMillan Browse, The Royal Horticultural Society, Apr 17, 1999, , 192 pages. Produced in association with the Royal Horticultural Society, the titles in this series have become standard works of practical gardening reference. Each book is illustrated ....

America's Hidden History Untold Tales of the First Pilgrims, Fighting Women, and Forgotten Founders Who Shaped a Nation, Kenneth C. Davis, Apr 29, 2008, History, 272 pages. Relates historical events that significantly impacted the development of the United States in the years prior to Washington's inauguration, considering such subjects as the ....

World Mythology , Donna Rosenberg, Jan 11, 1994, Fiction, 584 pages. Presents major myths and epics from around the world accompanied by historical background, literary analysis, and an evaluation of each myth's appeal.

Anna Karenina , graf Leo Tolstoy, 1958, Fiction, 1235 pages. Anna Karenina is a novel by the Russian writer Leo Tolstoy, published in serial installments from 1873 to 1877 in the periodical The Russian Messenger. Tolstoy clashed with ....

Whether it's the adventures of Greek gods and goddesses or Norse trickster tales, we all love to hear a good story. Kenneth C. Davis gives readers a taste of the diverse myths that live on in the cultures and religions around the world today. In his trademark question-and-answer style, peppered with entertaining sidebars and quotes, he also shows how almost every civilization's mythology shares common themes. A wealth of photographs and art reproductions, along with clever black-and-white illustrations by Sergio Ruzzier, helps convey mythology's lasting vitality. This is the perfect young companion to Don't Know Much About® Mythology -- and other titles in Davis's best-selling Don't Know Much About® series.

In my college survey course of world mythology, I use Davis' "Don't Know Much About World Myths" as a companion book to the excellent "World Mythology: The Illustrated Guide" by Roy Willis. Davis' short book (144 pages) obviously shouldn't substitute for a more comprehensive reading of world myths, but it is very helpful for seeing the big picture. It also correlates well with the topics and myths covered in Willis' book. Even though the stated level is grades 4-8, my college students say it gives them a good overview before getting more in-depth into the various cultures. The chapters correlate very well with Willis' book.

Since the beginning of time, people have been insatiably curious. They've asked questions about where we come from, why the stars shine and the seasons change, and what constitutes evil. The imaginative answers crafted by our ancestors have served as religion, science, philosophy, and popular literature. In this latest installment of the New York Times bestselling Don't Know Much About® series, Kenneth C. Davis introduces and explains the great myths of the world using his engaging and delightfully irreverent question-and-answer style. He tackles the epic of Gilgamesh; Achilles and the Trojan War; Stonehenge and the Druids; Odin, Thor, and the entire Norse pantheon; Native American myths, and much more, including the dramatic life and times of the man who would be Buddha. From Mount Olympus to Machu Picchu, here is an insightful, lively look at the greatest stories ever told.

HarperCollins's Don't Know Much About series is the slightly more attractive younger sibling of Alpha Book's Idiot's Guide series. If Alpha's famous orange-and-white dressed reference books

have spawned a whole new generation of readers whose quest for a maximum amount of facts are sated by prose any "idiot" could read, the Don't Know Much About series offers the same promise with a bit more elegance and charm. The text for DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT MYTHOLOGY is provided by Kenneth C. Davis, a journalist and National Public Radio commentator whose encyclopedic knowledge of world history and culture enables him to construct prose that is as breezy as it is informative, as witty as it is delightful. He has an impressive ability to synthesize great quantities of texts and facts into a concise and coherent digest that, well, just about any idiot can read.

Organized into nine chapters that explore first the earliest civilizations in Egypt and Mesopotamia, then the later civilizations of Greece, Northern Europe, the Far East and the African continent, and finally the Americas, DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT MYTHOLOGY follows the same sequence that countless mythology texts have used before. And like those texts, the bulk of Davis's book is comprised of well-written prose paraphrases of ancient literatures. In terms of form and function, it doesn't break any new ground; instead, it offers another alternative to speedy referencing.

Bracketing each chapter are lists that frame important events in a sequential time table called "Mythic Milestones." When read side by side, they constitute a concise timeline of world history. Of perhaps more pedagogical interest are a series of "key questions" that introduce each new section. [Read more &rsquo;](#)

In his first chapter, Davis makes a distinction between mythology and myth. I didn't realize how true he would hold to the title of the book. This is a book about various mythologies (the study of myths) as opposed to actual myths (the stories of gods and men). As such it does a decent job. If you're expecting a book containing popular myths from each culture, look elsewhere. If you're looking for a book to introduce you to the major players in each culture's myths so that you can look smart and know who Ra really is when watching Stargate or who Homer Simpson is talking about when he makes fun of "the many arms of Vishnu," then this is the book for you.

One pet peeve though. He tries really hard to remain "religiously tolerant", which to me means "all religions are myth." He relates ancient myths to our modern times, in particular to various Judeo-Christian beliefs. He's largely successful and knowing his reader base, tries to respect Jewish and Christian beliefs, but there were times where I felt he just wanted to call Judeo-Christian beliefs myths. Because of this, I'm hesitant to read his Don't Know Much about the Bible book. He also has no problems including Hindu, Confucian, Tao, and tribal "myths," despite their common modern practice. As an added insult, he has no problem laying on the guilt of Christian interference in either altering ancient myths or completely destroying tribal religions, but he has few problems with the Aryan influence on the Greeks and Indians. [Read more &rsquo;](#)

Davis' "Don't Know Much About" series has always been marked by the author's conversational and breezy style as opposed to more dry, pedantic treatment of the subjects. That tone is continued here in his view of world mythology. Instead of aiming at being a comprehensive overview of the subject, he chooses to highlight the "you should know" topics - much like a Cliff Notes for a whole course. Often times the word Mythology only brings up images of Greek and Roman gods in people's minds. What Davis does well is to bring us back into the other myths of the ancient world - from Egypt and Mesopotamia, showing how these myths intermingled with other cultures and influenced, among other things, possibly several stories in the Bible. Davis continues around the world highlighting the stories of the Celts, the Norse, Indians, Chinese and Japanese. He comes up a bit short in his discussion of Sub-Saharan Africa and Native American mythology mainly because it is such a diverse topic involving not one dominant culture, but rather hundreds of individual cultures, each with their own views of the world. So while I would applaud him for including recognition of these areas, Davis set himself up with a task far beyond his current project that may leave the reader unsatisfied in these areas. Overall a good book to get a quick overview and introduction to names, stories and history of various cultures and how stories that are still familiar today came into being.

this is no scholarly work. First many of the quotes are from other popular secondary sources, such as Thomas Cahill's books. Also, wherever possible the author tries to be politically correct. This

descends to the point of self-parody where he is disussing native americans. I seem to remember this tendency was also there in his civil war book and it's stopped me ever reading his "Don't know much about history."

It has been fifteen years since Kenneth C. Davis first dazzled audiences with his instant classic *Don't Know Much About History*, vividly bringing the past to life and proving that Americans don't hate history, they just hate the dull, textbook version they were fed in school. With humor, wit, and a knack for storytelling, Davis has been bringing readers of all ages up to speed on history, geography, and science ever since. Now, in the classic traditions of Edith Hamilton and Joseph Campbell, he turns his talents to the world of myth.

Where do we come from? Why do stars shine and the seasons change? What is evil? Since the beginning of time, people have answered such questions by crafting imaginative stories that have served as religion, science, philosophy, and popular literature. In his irreverent and popular question-and-answer style, Davis introduces and explains the great myths of the world, as well as the works of literature that have made them famous. In a single volume, he tackles Mesopotamia's Gilgamesh, the first hero in world mythology; Achilles and the Trojan War; Stonehenge and the Druids; Thor, the Nordic god of thunder; Chinese oracle bones; the use of peyote in ancient Native American rites; and the dramatic life and times of the man who would be Buddha.

Ever familiar and instructive, Davis shows why the ancient tales of gods and heroes—from Mount Olympus to Machu Picchu, from ancient Rome to the icy land of the Norse—continue to speak to us today, in our movies, art, language, and music. For mythology novices and buffs alike, and for anyone who loves a good story, *Don't Know Much About Mythology* is a lively and insightful look into the greatest stories ever told.

This book is pretty much what the title says it is. It's not a scholarly mess of whatnot, but a really great breakdown of most major culture's mythological history. I am pretty convinced that no one really has any idea about specifics of Japanese mythology because I can never find a book on it (only art relating to the mythology) but it is still pretty amazing to see how every culture has similar themes going through etc etc. It's still pretty nerdy reading, but easy to understand just for fun...more This book is pretty much what the title says it is. It's not a scholarly mess of whatnot, but a really great breakdown of most major culture's mythological history. I am pretty convinced that no one really has any idea about specifics of Japanese mythology because I can never find a book on it (only art relating to the mythology) but it is still pretty amazing to see how every culture has similar themes going through etc etc. It's still pretty nerdy reading, but easy to understand just for funsies. (less)

Kenneth Davis's "Don't Know Much" Series - A wonderful Introduction and invitation to get more involved and deeper into those things that make life...life. This is a good tour through Mythology by Kenneth C. Davis. It's not going to make anyone a Mythological genius just by reading it. However, it does give a good overview with some depth and exposure to the worlds ancient beliefs. Some of the stories as told by Davis are different than what I had learned through other sources, but I have no re...more Kenneth Davis's "Don't Know Much" Series - A wonderful Introduction and invitation to get more involved and deeper into those things that make life...life. This is a good tour through Mythology by Kenneth C. Davis. It's not going to make anyone a Mythological genius just by reading it. However, it does give a good overview with some depth and exposure to the worlds ancient beliefs. Some of the stories as told by Davis are different than what I had learned through other sources, but I have no reason to doubt Mr. Davis. His explanations allow for variance and are well thought out and explored. I especially appreciate the skill and care Davis took to make sure the myths of Sub-Saharan Africa, South America and the Native American Indians of North America were treated with the same respect and dignity as myths from Asian and European communities. He takes the time to explain what happened to each civilization as things change and shift in the course of history. This is not an attack on Christianity, Judaism, or Islam. It does become clear that Davis is either an atheist or has a unique perspective on modern religions. He talks often about how many Christian stories are borrowed from earlier religions and how these

things. It shouldn't be seen as offensive. Davis obviously took great pains to be neutral and respectful, even of modern religions and there are some that no matter how carefully it's worded will not mistake the subtle aligning of facts that question the basic formation and tenants of modern faith. I'm not sure that every person of faith will be able to accept everything in here. Though, as carefully as it is worded in what I believe is an honest attempt to talk about ancient myths and legends and not focus on modern religion, some conservatives will take issue with it. I liked this book, and, as the author himself warns, it will not make you the next prodigy in ancient legends, nor would this be the volume that Indiana Jones takes with him on his next adventure to check facts and find buried treasures. Still, if you know little or nothing about mythology, or just want to brush up on things world wide, then this is a fantastic overview and introduction to worlds of myth, legend, faith and fantasy. 4 stars. (less)

This book is an interesting blend of history and mythology--and really does prove that most of us don't know much about either! Each section of the book starts with a timeline of events for the part of the world being discussed (ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, the Americas, Pacific islands, and more) and then follows with information on the myths of each in a question-and-answer format, including a "who's who" of gods and goddesses for each region. Sprinkled throughout each section are...more This book is an interesting blend of history and mythology--and really does prove that most of us don't know much about either! Each section of the book starts with a timeline of events for the part of the world being discussed (ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, the Americas, Pacific islands, and more) and then follows with information on the myths of each in a question-and-answer format, including a "who's who" of gods and goddesses for each region. Sprinkled throughout each section are "mythic voices", brief segments from sources as varied as the Bible, Egypt's Book of the Dead, Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung that serve to reinforce the primary text. Overall a fascinating book, it really is a bit too much to read in a short period of time. We listened to the audio version while driving in the car--it was well read by John Lee, though at times his British accent and slightly different pronunciations got to be a bit distracting--over about three months. Definitely recommended, though it is not for young children, as quite a bit of awkward explanations would be needed. Ancient myths are not at all G-rated! (less)

Did you know that the ancient Mesopotamians "invented the seven-day week, beer, and astrology"? Neither did I! Every time I lift my stein, I will say a big thank you to the people between the Tigris and th...more This is a grand summary of world mythology. Kenneth Davis puts it altogether in one coherent, incredibly readable book. Sure, he leaves quite a bit out - and he omits pedantic scholarly digressions as well - but the whole of it is very helpful and ultimately proves why mythology still matters.

One flaw, at least for me, is that the book is still just a "summary." Davis does not go into some of the more interesting complexities of each god/goddess, (but I don't think that was his intent). For instance, major deities get short shrift - Isis, Osiris, Zeus, Athena, etcetera. So the reader knows WHO they are, but not what they mean for the religious worshipper or the student of world cultures. Because I love Greek mythology so much, that was the section that was the most disappointing for me - but still, this is a good book for an overview.

I liked it, though it isn't my particular favorite of all the mythology books I read. It doesn't delve deeply into all aspects of every specific mythology group out there, but it is a good overview of each regional mythology with a mix of world history to put the myths in perspective of the times in which they were most followed. The author also does a fairly good job of using examples from the modern world to help the reader make connections. If you're looking for specific mythologies like Gree...more I liked it, though it isn't my particular favorite of all the mythology books I read. It doesn't delve deeply into all aspects of every specific mythology group out there, but it is a good overview of each regional mythology with a mix of world history to put the myths in perspective of the times in which they were most followed. The author also does a fairly good job of using examples from the modern world to help the reader make connections. If you're looking for specific mythologies like Greek/Roman, it isn't here, because this is more of an overview (albeit a very long one, it took a while to read and I'm a pretty fast reader). I've also seen a lot of complaints in the past (not just

reviews here) of sexuality and such, but to be fair that is what a lot of myth deals with, especially creation stories and Tricksters. It would bother me more if the author had sanitized it because then it just wouldn't be very accurate. Anyway, like I said, it is a dense read, so be wary of that.(less)

Wow, this book is long. I mean, it's interesting, but there's so much information covering so vast a scope that reading it is like running a marathon. Each section covers a geographical region such as Africa or Western Europe, with the countries boasting the most well-documented mythologies getting the most treatment, such as Egypt, India, and Greece/Rome. Each section includes a timeline, a "who's who" of gods and goddesses, relevant quotes, and answers to common questions like "was there really...more Wow, this book is long. I mean, it's interesting, but there's so much information covering so vast a scope that reading it is like running a marathon. Each section covers a geographical region such as Africa or Western Europe, with the countries boasting the most well-documented mythologies getting the most treatment, such as Egypt, India, and Greece/Rome. Each section includes a timeline, a "who's who" of gods and goddesses, relevant quotes, and answers to common questions like "was there really a Trojan War?" Though many comparisons are made, there is no separate section for Judeo-Christian mythology, having covered it in depth in his other book, Don't Know Much About the Bible. Davis holds nothing back, describing a representative sample of each culture's myths in (often hilarious) detail. For example, I was surprised (and kind of disgusted) by how many creation myths involved excrement and other bodily fluids of the gods, and laughed at the tales of the trickster god's magical penis. The little asides and pop culture references were also often amusing. Though admittedly not meant to be a thorough compendium of mythology (and I would have loved for the "New World" section to have been much longer), it is certainly an excellent start. The writing is very accessible and has made me want to read more of the original myths, particularly the Norse and Egyptian tales. A word of warning, though: once you read the section on Egypt, you will never see the Washington Monument the same way ever again.(less)

This is a good tour through Mythology by Kenneth C. Davis. It's not going to make anyone a Mythological genius just by reading it. However, it does give a good overview with depth into many of the worlds mythologies. Some of the stories are different than what I had learned through other sources, but I have no reason to doubt Mr. Davis.

I especially appreciate the skill and care Davis took to make sure the myths of Sub-Saharan Africa and were treated with the same respect and dignity as myths from Asian and European communities. I also like that he takes the time to explain what happened to each civilization as things change and shift in the course of history.

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I liked this book, and, as the author himself warns, it will not make you the next prodigy in ancient legends, nor would this be the volume that Indiana Jones takes with him on his next adventure. Still, if you know little or nothing, or just want to brush up on things world wide, then this is a fantastic overview and introduction to worlds of myth, legend, faith and fantasy.

This book was a hit and miss for me. Not terrible but not great either. I have found that some of Ken Davis's™ works have that same rapport with me. I either love it (Don't Know much about History, Civil War) or I find myself quickly bored and confused and wanting to put it down (Bible, Literature). Thankfully I've finished them all because I feel I will learn something.

I've considered myself already knowledgeable in the subject of Greco/Roman mythology and

was curious to see what else this book might have to teach me. While Davis does a great job in many of the chapters (trying to explain basically all the most popular myths of the world in less than 600 pages is not easy task) some chapters just fall flat and don't measure up the standards of the other chapters.

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