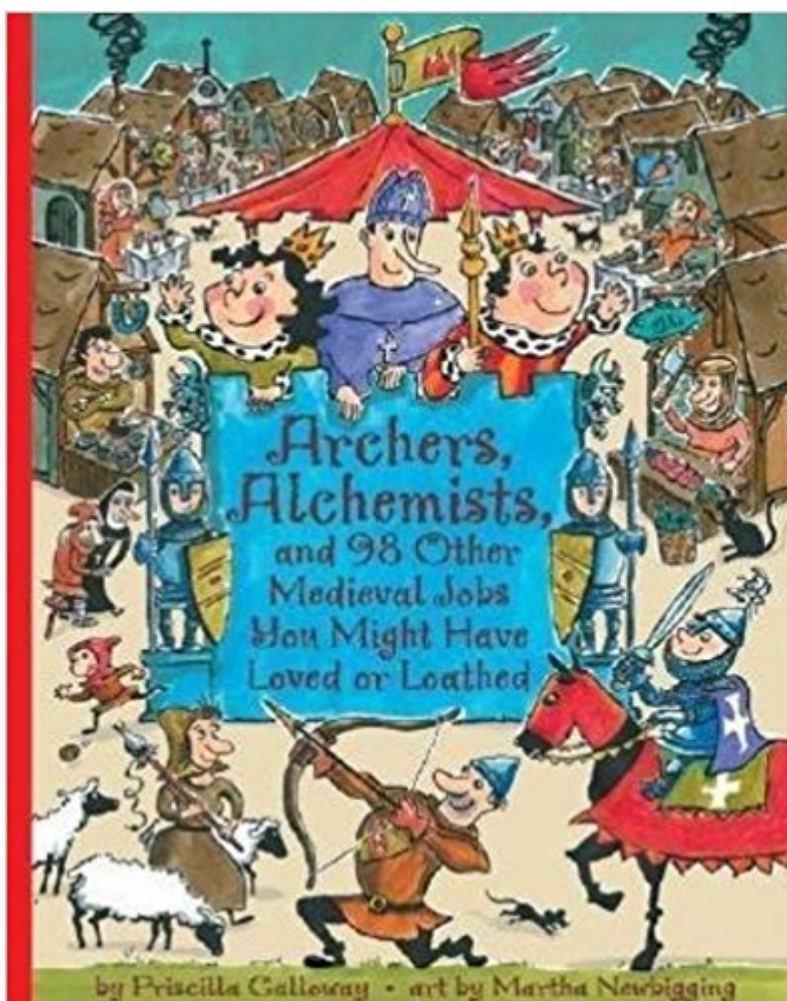


The book was found

Archers, Alchemists: And 98 Other Medieval Jobs You Might Have Loved Or Loathed (Jobs In History)



Synopsis

This book allows us to explore a popular fantasy. If we could go back in time to the Middle Ages, what would we want to be? A knight in shining armor? A princess in a silken gown? Most people's lives were far less glamorous but just as fascinating. Barbers cut off beards ... and sickly limbs; gong farmers cleaned out latrines ... and sorted through the excrement for dropped buttons or pennies. This fascinating and original guide presents 100 careers, described with historical accuracy and the author's renowned wit! Sidebars expound on intriguing elements of medieval life, including the Bayeux Tapestry, Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, medieval cosmetics, and torture techniques! The art provides the reader with further opportunities to have fun and learn.

Book Information

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Age Range: 9 - 11 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr. 3-6. Galloway introduces medieval Europe from 1000 to 1500 not by recounting dates, wars, and rulers but by discussing the occupations available in the society. Ten thematic chapters cover categories such as "Bread and Butter Jobs," "Religious Jobs," "Castle Jobs," "Dirty Jobs," and "Law and Order Jobs." After discussing how society was organized and how life differed during the Middle Ages, she focuses on individual occupations in segments that range from one to three paragraphs. Options available to women are considered in the introduction and sometimes mentioned again

within the descriptions of individual jobs. Sidebars broaden the treatment with information on specific issues. The jaunty, cartoonlike ink drawings, brightened with color washes, heighten the informal, upbeat tone of the informative text. Carolyn Phelan Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Packed with fascinating detail... this book is a real eye-opener that kids will love. (Krys Stefansky Virginian-Pilot 2004-01-13) One to dip into again and again for a chuckle or a revelation. (Alison Chadsey Victoria Times Colonist 2004-01-18) Clear, chatty language and short descriptions along with lots of white space, large type, and cartoon illustrations make this an appealing book... A terrific supplement to Middle Ages units. (Anne Chapman School Library Journal) An anything-but-dull look at that time period... filled with cool cartoon-style illustrations and interesting sidebars. (Marcia Borucki Chicago Tribune 2003-09-30) Not only an enjoyable read but also a useful reference book with many potential applications for role-playing, creative writing, and other research projects. (Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books) Witty, charming and packed with information... enjoyable read... will teach readers of any age much about Medieval culture. (Lucy Schall VOYA) Brings the middle ages to life... accurate information presented with humor and wit. (Elizabeth Shaffer BC Parent) The jaunty, cartoonlike ink drawings, brightened with color washes, heighten the informal, upbeat tone of the informative text. (Carolyn Phelan Booklist / RBB 2004-01-01) Priscilla Galloway and her illustrator, Martha Newbigging, have done an exceptional job with this book. Galloway's text combines wit with scholarship, and Newbigging's many whimsical, colored illustrations complement the text. Medieval life has often been seen as nasty, brutish, and short, slightly mixed with lashings of overdone Arthurian chivalry. However, Galloway quickly dispenses with this one-dimensional point of view, bringing us instead a picture of a well-organized and diverse social system, which at times, however, seems virtually incomprehensible to the modern mind. Highly Recommended. (Ian Stewart Canadian Materials 2003-10-31)

On the plus-side, the author does have a lot of interesting details on various medieval jobs. Everything is covered from "Bread and Butter Jobs" such as butchers and bakers, through artistic and religious jobs. On the down-side, though, the author does at times show a surprising ignorance of her subject. For example, the first paragraph of the first section says, "The Roman Empire was kaput, finished, done. Vandals burned the ancient city of Rome..." In point of fact, this only marks the end of the *Western* Roman Empire. The Eastern Roman Empire (they never referred to themselves as the Byzantine Empire) continued for another 1000 years. She further states that it

was Arab countries that had "preserved records from Ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome." Again, obviously not knowing that much of what Western Europe received of these records came from Eastern Roman lands. She goes on to state that, "Spain, an Islamic country for 700 years, was wonderfully tolerant of different religious views, though Christianity eventually put an end to that." If the author and her family had to live in Andalusia Spain as dhimmis, subject to punitive Jiziya taxes, judicial murder (see the Martyrs of Cordoba), and even pogroms (including the Muslim anti-Jewish pogroms in Cordoba (1011) and Granada (1066), not to mention the massacre of Cordoba's Jews in 1148), she might have felt different. Don't get me wrong, too much of what happened in "Christian" Europe was too horrifying for words, but nonetheless that does not make her above statement true. So, while I did like parts of this book, I do not think that that it is a good one, and I do NOT recommend it.

This is a real gem. It wasn't in my original stash of medieval books, but now I consider this as a must have. It has a great summary in the beginning about the basic facts of medieval history in Europe (including a timeline) and explains why most history books fall short of giving us the big picture. I love how the jobs are categorized in a logical manner, and I further appreciate that it includes a very thorough index. Whether reading bits of this book in order, or whether referring to it while reading literature like Canterbury Tales, Robin Hood, etc., this has a plethora of valuable information presented in a witty and interesting way. I really believe this book can go far in extending students' understanding and appreciation of history (and modern times!). I will be collecting any other books in this series that I can find!

Fun book to read about the Medieval times. My children like all the books in this series and use it to go spring board deeper learning in jobs that fascinate them.

I used this series of books for a quick and easy reference guide in case there was a little detail I couldn't remember or wasn't sure about. These do the trick!

This is a great book! It makes understanding the middle ages, the people, the lives of the peasantry and others much easier for children. Excellent information in a simple, even silly (all the better!) style. Highly recommended for a basic understanding of medieval roles -- even for grown-ups.

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