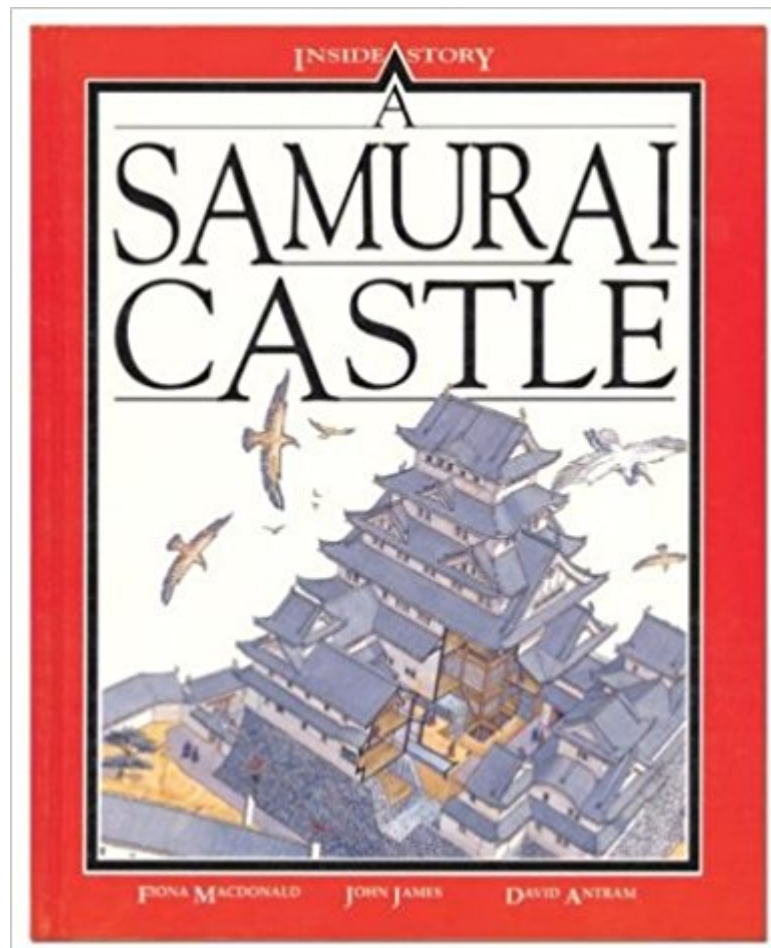




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A Samurai Castle (Inside Story)



Synopsis

Who were the Samurais and what was life like in their castles? Inside Story: Samurai Castle answers these questions and more through beautiful illustrations and thoroughly researched information. This book will take you inside a Samurai castle to learn about the Samurai way of life, the different kinds of people who lived and worked in Samurai castles, how these castles were built, how they were defended, and more.

Book Information

Hardcover: 48 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

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Grade Level: 5 - 12

Customer Reviews

Gr 5-8--This book on samurai castles of the 16th and 17th centuries covers details of their construction, history, and the life and times of their inhabitants. Each double-page spread provides a paragraph or two on a particular aspect of the era (e.g., elegant interiors, castles and towns, entertaining visitors, women's lives, arms and armor) and detailed, informative full-color illustrations. Brief descriptions of some famous samurai are included. There is far more information on the topic here than in other books for this age group, including encyclopedias. The book's format will appeal to a younger age than its content. The limited scope makes it an appropriate purchase only where it fills a curricular need. Pamela Odijk's *The Ancient World: The Japanese* (Silver Burdett, 1991) provides broader coverage of Japanese history. Peg Glisson, Dewitt Road School, Webster, NY Copyright 1996 Cahnners Business Information, Inc.

Fiona MacDonald studied history at Cambridge University and at the University of East Anglia. She

has taught in schools and colleges and has written numerous books for children and adults. David Antram was born in Brighton, England. He studied at Eastbourne College of Art and then worked in advertising for 15 years before becoming a full-time artist. Â John James was born in London and studied at the Eastbourne College of Art. He has specialized in illustrating historical subjects since leaving art school in 1982. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is totally different from what I expected. This book is not about "samurai castle" like Castle by David Macaulay. Only 2 pages explain the castle. The rest pages explain edo era's social ranks, culture etc.

The "Inside Story" series is one of the best historical, non-fiction series ever produced. The aim of this series is to teach history by using building construction as a framework to tell a larger story. The series editors matched some of the best children's history writers with the very best historical illustrators. I loved the first few books so much that I ended up purchasing the entire series. Like all the other volumes in the series, "A Samurai Castle" is a success. In Sixteenth Century, a Samurai castle was at the apex of Japanese technology. Thousands of workers from all classes of Japanese society came together to construct these technological wonders. Once constructed, hundreds more worked and lived in the castle. "A Samurai Castle" carefully documents the construction techniques and the social relationships that revolved around the castle. What really makes this book work are the beautifully rendered illustrations of David Antram and John James. They are two of the best illustrators working in children's literature. This is a beautiful book that will be enjoyed by both parents and children alike. Highly recommended.

I purchased this book for a novel I am writing. The children's format with clear illustrations has been very helpful. The book arrived in good condition.

"A Samurai Castle" looks at the history of the samurai castles of medieval Japan, not only in terms of diagramming the layout of these castles but also in terms of examining the role of samurai, the shogun, and women in feudal Japanese society. Fiona MacDonald looks at everything that made up this society, from the religious beliefs to the arms and armor of the period. In the late Sixties I visited just such a castle in Tokyo, but of course I had no appreciation for it beyond noticing that they are built up on tall stone foundations (which had aesthetic and symbolic significance). This book begins with the idea of how sites were selected for building these castles along with how they

were designed and constructed. The book is illustrated by David Antram and John James, with pictures not only of these castles but the people that worked and lived inside them in feudal Japan. Actually, this book places as much emphasis on the samurai as it does on their castle, covering how they trained, their arms and armor, and what they did during a normal day of service to their lord. The roles of women and what these people did for entertainment are covered as well. Consequently, I was a bit disappointed that there were not more details on the actual castles, although there was a section near the end on how the samurai laid siege to these castles. But this is rather consistent with the format of this series. "A Samurai Castle" is one of over a dozen books from the Inside Story series that diagram ancient structures such as an Egyptian Pyramid, a Roman Fort, and a Medieval Cathedral to more recent structures such as a frontier fort on the Oregon Trail and a World War II submarine. Obviously what is nice about these volumes is that they present young readers with the idea of form and function in a way that is both creative and educational.

This is a great book for kids and adults alike. It has wonderful artwork that depicts period clothing and settings. Even some good general information. If my children were interested in samurai's, I'd buy it for them.

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