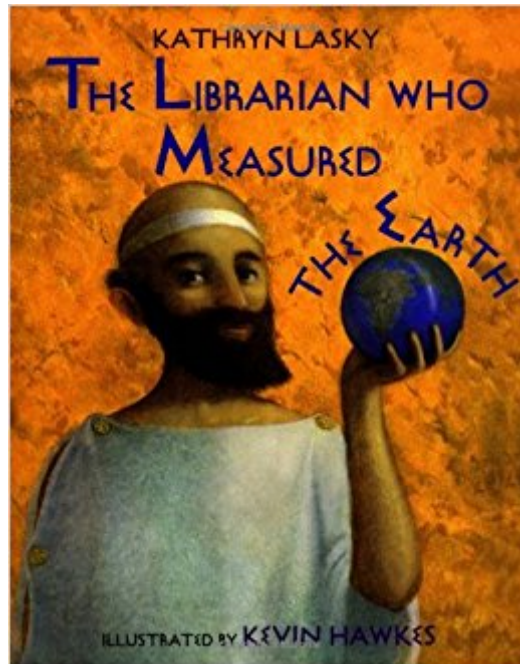




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The Librarian Who Measured The Earth



Synopsis

A colorfully illustrated biography of the Greek philosopher and scientist Eratosthenes, who compiled the first geography book and accurately measured the globe's circumference.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 840L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Little Brown Books; 1st edition (September 1, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316515264

ISBN-13: 978-0316515269

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.5 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 35 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #149,910 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > European #60 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Ancient Civilizations #135 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Astronomy & Space

Age Range: 7 - 9 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Newbery Honor author Lasky (*Sugaring Time*) deserves high marks for her attempt to present formal mathematical concepts in a picture-book format. The result, however, is a somewhat uneven amalgam of fable, history and science that struggles to find an appropriate age group. She tells the story of Eratosthenes, the ancient Greek librarian who figured out how to calculate the circumference of the earth by a sophisticated process involving sun and shadows. In an author's note, Lasky explains that since there is little extant documentation pertaining to Eratosthenes himself, her job as historian became to "responsibly imagine based on what we already know." Unfortunately, the simplistic language and imagery she uses to describe his life contrast awkwardly with the somewhat daunting details of his mathematical innovations. Older readers who can understand abstract calculations might well be put off by such lines as "More than two thousand years ago a very smart baby was born." Hawkes (see *The Nose*, reviewed above) handsomely illustrates both the mathematical and historical concepts with his signature touch of whimsy. His

stunning acrylics add significant interest to the volume. Ages 6-10. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 2-5-This picture book covers the life of Eratosthenes of Cyrene, a geographer who estimated the circumference of the Earth in around 200 B.C.. Though he was in fact a librarian, he is famous for his scientific accomplishments. Since little is known about his personal life, Lasky describes his early years in general terms. He liked to ask questions, loved learning at the gymnasium, and sailed off to Athens to further his studies. He became tutor to the son of King Ptolemy III of Egypt, and eventually became the head of Alexandria's magnificent library. Readers don't come to know the subject intimately, but they do get to know his times very well. The narrative is filled with fascinating details about his world. Hawkes's illustrations make a large contribution, as they contain authentic examples of the art, architecture, and social structure of ancient life. His paintings are rich and warm and filled with touches of humor, making the people, as well as their environment, come alive. The pictures combine with the text to give a clear explanation of how the man came to make his key discovery about the Earth's circumference. A fine combination of history, science, and biography. Steven Engelfried, West Lynn Library, OR Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The combined talents of Kathryn Lasky and Kevin Hawkes have made several really amazing books available to a wide age group of students. The text is clear and interesting. The characters come across as real people; people you would find interesting to know. As a read aloud for young children it demonstrates how mathematical learning is connected to everyday objects, occurrences, and problems. The illustrations are historically accurate and provide an opportunity to teach children to use the visual material in conjunction with text to really get inside a story and discover all the information it offers. The faces of the characters are appealing, gentle and humorous. I have used this book with older children, reading it aloud when introducing the unit on this math. It captures their interest and invites discussion of how math is important to our lives. These older children can also benefit from reading this book on their own as an opportunity to make a biographical report or develop an essay on why we learn math. That last topic is so essential to developing in them an interest in math and confidence in their ability to really understand mathematical processes.

This is one of my favorite books when it comes to have a story hour with children 8-12 years old (and not 4-8, even though younger children can still be fascinated by the story, the logic here and

kind of information requires more maturity!). This nice biography for children just shows that all this knowledge we have is a heritage of those past great minds. This book talks about a curious and intelligent child who becomes the "librarian who measured the earth". It shows how a library can be the perfect place for curious people to gather information and think and how inter-disciplinary thinking and learning is important. There is science, maths, geography, and much more: the imagination and logic of this great man: Erastheneus.

This is a fascinating story about an early mathematician... great for little and big alike. These are the stories kids should grow up with... real-life tales of fascinating discoveries. It produces so much more than the latest video game or popular toy. My kids all loved the story... and, better yet, it stuck with them. It continues to pop up in conversation every now and then.

This is an excellent book for students of all ages! The story of the project to measure the earth well before Columbus reminds student that history has myths. Many people not only knew the earth was round but also about how big it was. Columbus ignored this ancient data and grossly miscalculated the circumference. This book is a resource for studies across the curriculum. Including history, math, and geography in a fairly easy to read format. The age 4-8 for reading level is not accurate. The reading is probably around intermediate grade level and much of the technical information is secondary school level. It is a super addition to any library.

As a teacher, I've used this book for several years as a "read-aloud" in my sixth grade math classroom. I time it with my geometry units. It's a hit every time. The kids truly love it, and ask great follow-up questions. The book explains the math involved in finding the circumference of the earth 2000 years ago. The language and great illustrations make the math easy to understand. Since the students also read mythology in reading class, it's a perfect cross-curriculum connection. In the past two years, I've timed it to coincide with the "Read Across America" movement on March 2.

Great book for just plain reading or use in your classroom. Full of math.

I use this as a read aloud in science. It really brings something abstract to life (measuring Earth) and gets the students thinking.

Book was as described.

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