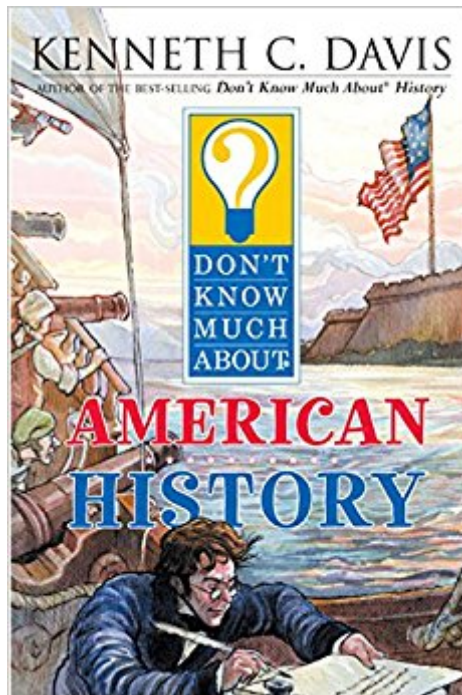




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# Don't Know Much About American History



## Synopsis

Was Columbus the first European in the Americas? What sport became more popular after the Civil War? Were the Little Rock Nine a rock-and-roll band? As best-selling author Kenneth C. Davis knows, history can be fun, fascinating, and memorable. When his *Don't Know Much About History* was published in 1990, it was a sensation. The book delivered a fresh take on history with its wit and unusual detail. Davis now does for young people what his earlier book did for adults. In his trademark question-and-answer style -- peppered with surprising facts, historic reproductions, and Matt Faulkner's lively illustrations -- Davis introduces our ancestors who settled the East and expanded the West, as well as those who had been living here all along. His sure touch brings the drama and excitement of the American story vividly to life.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1130L (What's this?)

Series: Don't Know Much About

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; 1 edition (April 1, 2003)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 344 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #26,095 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in Books > History >

Historical Study & Educational Resources > Reference #32 in Books > Humor & Entertainment

> Puzzles & Games > Trivia #51 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures >

Explore the World > United States

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 4-7-American history comes alive in this witty, yet informative account. Kenneth Davis (HarperCollins, 2003) explains complex issues like the controversy over slavery that led to the Civil War, the reasons for the Great Depression, and why terrorists would want to attack the United States on 9/11 in language that is easy for young people to understand. The narration by actor

Oliver Wyman is broken up by the voices of three other actors who ask questions like: "How did Theodore Roosevelt get rid of 7,400 miles?" and "Were the Little Rock Nine a rock-and-roll band?" The narrative is also broken up by "American Voices," which include first-person accounts; American Portraits-brief biographies of noteworthy people, ranging from Harriet Tubman to Harry Houdini; Great American Pastimes, ranging from baseball to jazz; and American English, discussing how words became part of our language. Davis doesn't gloss over controversial parts of history, such as why not all Americans consider Columbus Day a holiday. and why the U.S. didn't do more to help prevent the Holocaust. He also addresses what our founding fathers meant when they said, "All men are created equal." As lively as this history book is, though, it's unlikely that young people will want to listen to it just for fun. David Bilmes, Schaghticoke Middle School, New Milford, CT Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“[Davis] steers an intelligent, non-partisan course through the thorny issues of the past.” (USA Today) “Put the zest back in history” (Washington Post Book World)

Where else can you get an easy-to-read overview of 500 years of American history--from who really discovered America to how we elected our first black president--and have FUN reading it? I saw author Kenneth C. Davis interviewed on CNN and was mesmerized by what he had to say and how he said it. When they flashed his credentials on the screen as the author of this book, I bought it immediately. This isn't your high school or college history textbook. This one is so much fun you might even stay up past your bedtime reading it! Quite simply, read this book and you'll be quite literate when it comes to the big facts about our nation's past--whether you want to win at Trivial Pursuit, impress someone at a cocktail party or (most important) develop an understanding of why and how things happened THEN that deeply impact our NOW.

The book is exactly what it claims to be - a brief recap of the significant periods, events, and people of US history. None of the sections tell you the whole story, but there are some decent references for further reading, and I found that browsing Wikipedia and a world map while reading helped me fill in some gaps. Some content gets repeated (especially in the timelines of wars, etc) and some sections are oddly short (for instance, the Tonkin Incident section doesn't actually describe what happened, although it was later discussed in a timeline), but those aren't major issues. I liked the

references back and forth through history that show larger patterns, cycles, and causes, and I appreciate the sustained attention paid to systemic inequalities, especially for blacks and women, that have persisted through US history. This is my first Kindle book (I'm reading it on a mac) so maybe this is an issue of the medium, but I find the formatting pretty clunky, and the lack of photos, images, and maps is unfortunate.

Love this book. I'm about halfway through it and I can tell you that it's highly readable, entertaining and captivating. While sharing what some would think are arcane facts about our history, author Kenneth C. Davis presents the human part of our history so we get a much clearer picture of how we've arrived at this point. (NOTE: We're not always heroes in this life--we're just humans doing the best we can do at the time. This is a marvelous book and I highly recommend it!

I love history, but I didn't feel like we were always told the truth. First off who was around to tell Washington chop down the tree, how did we know it was a cherry tree. I feel like history has been misleading all my life. This book is wonderful I wish I had this book in school discussion we would had. If you are on the fence about purchasing this book, please go on you will not be disappointed.

An overall enjoyable book that presents a selective view of American history. As all authors he picks and chooses his source material and provides a meaningful exercise in detecting liberal bias however subtle. A good read but caveat emptor if you are looking for an unbiased work.

HISTORY IS BORING RIGHT, well you could be wrong. To sit down and read all about the actions of one person or another could be boring, but Kenneth Davis has taken that same history and made it interesting. He tells the history of different subjects in such a way that you shake your head and wonder just how things could happen that way. Listening to history, or the highlights of history as he presents it can cause you to shake your head and wonder just what people were thinking, or WHERE they were thinking about some of the things that have happened, and how did the stories that we hear today get started. ALL of Kenneth C. Davis books are well worth the investment not only to learn the important parts of history, but to shake your head at some of the stupid people who have been making all the history before our time

Item received on 2/25/17 by mail. A very interesting book, which tells us more detailed pieces from the American history than you ought to learn, often with several boring facts on school. Kenneth C.

Davis gives a very realistic picture of what was going good and wrong during the American history, and the influence in their concerned world. Again, the right literature that fills in the gaps of what we really didn't know.

Present for my husband. He loves it. He hardly put it down for the first week he had it.

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