

MLS Youth Services Recommended Reference Sources

Developed by the SLS Youth Services Reference Evaluation Committee 1994-1995, revised 1/08 by Mary Adamowski, Orland Park Public Library, and Sheri Daun-Bedford, Woodridge Public Library.

*(For use in conjunction with the **Core Reference List for MLS Public Libraries** and the **MLS Core Reference List for School Libraries Serving Grades K-8.**)*

(Future updates of this list can be found at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us>.)

Adopted 1995, Revised 2008

Designed to be used in conjunction with the [MLS Core Reference List for Public Libraries](#) and the [MLS Core Reference List for School Libraries Serving Grades K-8 \(pdf\)](#). Titles on this list are recommended for consideration to supplement titles on the core lists but do not have to be purchased in order to meet the MLS Minimum Reference Standards for public or school libraries.

Introduction

The MLS Youth Services Recommended Reference Sources list was first developed by the MLS Youth Services Reference Evaluation Committee in 1995. This committee was appointed by the Youth Services Consultant in 1994 to find ways to help youth services librarians evaluate the quality of reference service to youth. Various evaluation tools were developed and one of these became the 'Rec List.' The group kept stressing the need for a list of 'favorite reference tools' to help youth services librarians evaluate and develop an effective reference collection for youth.

The list was developed by the committee after being asked, 'What five reference sources are essential for answering young people's reference questions in your library?' Each member contributed five or more titles. There were some duplications but it was interesting to see the variety of sources named. A list of all titles was compiled and then the group spent several meetings discussing (and defending) the titles. Some were dropped and during the course of the development of the list new ones were added as they were published and found to be of value.

The list was then revised by a new committee in 1998 in preparation for the youth services reference workshop, "Basic Reference Sources for Youth." The committee presented the workshop using the Core Reference Lists and the "Rec List" as the basis for book talks on many of the titles.

The MLS Youth Services Recommended Reference Sources list was again revised in 1999, 2000, 2002, 2006, 2007, and 2008. It is hoped that it will continue to have annual revisions. People have suggested we add electronic resources and Web sites. That will be a decision the next revision team will consider.

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A to Zoo: Subject Access to Children's Picture Books, 7th ed., by Carolyn W. Lima and John A. Lima. Libraries Unlimited, 2006.

Wonderful for answering those questions from patrons who want picture books about a particular topic.

Best Books for Children: Preschool - Grade 6, 8th ed., by Catherine Barr and John T. Gillespie. Libraries Unlimited, 2006.

"Aims to provide a list of books, gathered from a number of sources, that are highly recommended to satisfy both a child's recreational reading needs and the demands of a typical school curriculum."

Best Books for Young Adults, 3rd ed., Young Adult Library Association (YALSA), edited by Holly Koelling. American Library Association, 2007.

"A comprehensive and effective reference for great reading for young adults, including 40 years of best YA books. Includes reproducible booklists, as well as indexed, annotated lists extending back to 1966."

Children's Catalog, 19th ed., edited by Anne Price. Wilson, 2006 with annual supplements.

"A selective list of fiction and non-fiction books and magazines recommended for children from preschool through sixth grade." A basic selection and weeding tool.

Famous First Facts: A Record of First Happenings, Discoveries, and Inventions in American History, 6th ed., by Joseph Nathan Kane. Wilson, 2006.

Aims to establish the earliest date of various occurrences, achievements, inventions, etc. Dictionary arrangement with many cross references. Gives brief description or explanation with the date.

Great Books About Things Kids Love: More Than 750 Recommended Books for Children 3 to 14, by Kathleen Odean. Ballantine, 2001.

Suggestions for books about animals, arts and crafts, science, math, sports, folklore and fantasy, history and adventure, and more. Includes magazines, tips for encouraging reading, and tips for parents.

Great Books for Babies and Toddlers: More Than 500 Recommended Books for Your Child's First Three Years, by Kathleen Odean. Ballantine, 2003. "The goal of this guide is to make reading aloud easy by identifying the best books for a child's first three years". Covers picture books, nursery rhymes, fingerplays, songs, and books in Spanish.

Great Books for Boys: More Than 600 Books for Boys 2 to 14, by Kathleen Odean. Ballantine, 1998.

"Includes picture books, books for middle graders and older readers." Has practical suggestions for encouraging boys to read and a list of magazines aimed at parents.

Great Books for Girls: More Than 600 Recommended Books for Girls Ages 3 to 14, 1st rev. ed., by Kathleen Odean. Ballantine, 2002.

"More than 600 books to inspire today's girls and tomorrow's women. The informational books in this guide show women in active roles."

[KidsClick!](http://www.KidsClick.org/)

<http://www.KidsClick.org/>

A Web search for kids by librarians. Divided into topical groups.

Middle and Junior High School Library Catalog, 9th ed., edited by Anne Price and Juliette Yankov. Wilson, 2005 with annual supplements.

Fiction and non-fiction books recommended for young people. A basic selection and weeding guide.

Popular Series Fiction for K–6 Readers: A Reading and Selection Guide, by Catherine Barr. Libraries Unlimited, 2004.

Lists series in alphabetical order with indexes by title, author, and genre/subject.

What Do Children Read Next? / What Do Young Adults Read Next?. Volume 5. Gale, 2002.

A reader's advisory tool for children's and young adult literatures. Each entry contains important information about the book and a list of "other books you might like."

Contains the following helpful indexes: awards, time period, geographic setting, subject, character name, character description, age level, author, and title. Starting with volume 4, these two sources were combined as one.

Note: For recommended encyclopedias and almanacs, please refer to the *SLS Reference Core List for Public Libraries* and the *SLS Reference Core List for K-8 Libraries*.

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[Catholic Online Saints and Angels](http://www.catholic.org/saints/)

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

Great site for researching saints. Indexed alphabetically according to first name.

The Illustrated Bulfinch's Mythology. Macmillan, 1997.

Newly separated illustrated volumes are entitled, "Age of Fable," "Age of Chivalry," and "Legends of Charlemagne." Also available in a combined one-volume edition.

Butler's Lives of the Saints, by Alban Butler, edited by Paul Burns. Liturgical Press, 2003.

A standard work on the lives of the saints arranged day by day through the year. Indexed.

Religions of the World: The Illustrated Guide to Origins, Beliefs, Traditions, and Festivals, rev. ed., by Elizabeth Breuilly et al. Checkmark Books/Facts on File, 2005.

A basic guide to religions around the world.

300

Career Discovery Encyclopedia, 6th ed. 8 vol. Ferguson, 2006.

This resource is easy to read, with 2-page spreads on each occupation. Includes professional organizations to contact for more information.

Chase's Calendar of Events, by William D. Chase. Contemporary Books. Annual.

Published annually since 1958, each edition contains thousands of events to celebrate. Holidays, holy days, national and ethnic days, seasons and astronomical phenomena, festivals, fairs, commercial promotions, sponsored events, birthdays and anniversaries the world over are covered, with a detailed index and illustrations. Free CD-ROM available.

The Constitution and Its Amendments, edited by Roger K. Newman. 4 volumes. MacMillan Reference USA, 1998.

Gives the text of the constitution and its amendments plus historical analysis.

Fashion in Costume, 1200-2000, 2nd ed., by Joan Nunn. New Amsterdam Books, 2000.

Describes everyday fashions and ethnic costumes from around the world. Clear line drawings illustrate the detailed narrative.

Folklore of American Holidays, 3rd ed., edited by Hennig Cohen and Tristram Potter Coffin. Gale, 1999.

A chronological listing of religious and civil celebrations in the United States for each day of the year. Descriptions include the religious or ethnic group that celebrates the holiday, how it is celebrated and why.

Folklore of World Holidays, 2nd ed., edited by Robert Griffin and Anne H. Shurgin. Gale, 1999.

Religious and civil celebrations around the world are listed chronologically. The comparisons of holidays across the globe make this a wonderful source for reports.

Holidays, Festivals and Celebrations of the World Dictionary, edited by Helene Henderson. Omnigraphics, 2005.

Alphabetical listing of observances in 50 states and 100 nations. Indexed by place and word.

Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes, edited by Iona and Peter Opie. Oxford, 1997.

Indexes first lines of rhymes and provides alphabetical access to titles and characters. For example, under "Jack" will be all the rhymes that start with Jack in the title, Jack in the first line, or any rhyme that features someone named Jack.

U.S. Immigration and Migration Reference Library, 5 vol. UXL, 2004.

One volume is primary sources consisting of letters and excerpts from documents, there is a two volume set of biographies and a two volume set almanac. Every volume contains a copy of the U.S. Immigration and Migration Timeline.

400

Checking Your Grammar, by Marvin Terban. Scholastic, 1993.

Basic but comprehensive guide to grammar and usage. Includes parts of speech, syntax, punctuation, capitalization and spelling rules, and tricky words.

DK Ultimate Visual Dictionary. Rev. Dorling Kindersley, 2002.

In more than 6,000 color photos and illustrations, nearly all aspects of the natural world and human achievements are described. Cutaways and cross-sections are used to analyze steps in the process of every described activity.

Roget's Student Thesaurus. Scott, Foresman-Addison Wesley, 2000.

An illustrated alphabetical wordlist of about 1000 entries with synonyms, antonyms, and the shades of meaning between them. Age appropriate for ages 8-12.

Scholastic Dictionary of Idioms, rev. ed., by Marvin Terban. Scholastic, 2006.

More than 700 phrases, sayings, and expressions are explained in terms understandable to middle grade students.

Scholastic Dictionary of Spelling, by Marvin Terban. Scholastic, 2006.

An instant spell-check of more than 16,000 words, including rules to make spelling easier, and mnemonic devices to remember how to spell tricky words.

Scholastic Rhyming Dictionary, by Sue Young. Scholastic, 2006.

An alphabetical listing of syllables followed by words that rhyme. Includes many cross references and an alphabetical index of words and sounds with their rhyming syllable. More than 1,500 rhymes.

World Book Dictionary. 2 volumes. World Book, 2007.

First choice for elementary and middle schools, this supplements *World Book Encyclopedia*, omitting material found in the encyclopedia. Includes sections on using language, writing, and other languages.

500

Astronomy and Space: From the Big Bang to the Big Crunch, by Phillis Englebert.

3 vol. UXL, 1997.

300 alphabetical entries ranging from one to four pages on the physical laws and features of the universe, the history of astronomy and space exploration, prominent astronauts, astronomers and observatories, and issues relating to our planet. A timeline of astronomical events is included. Index available in all three volumes. (Keep what you have and watch to see what changes occur.)

Biology Matters! 10 vol. Grolier, 2004.

Clear, straightforward text gives full explanations of modern and older laboratory and field methods of doing science to promote general science literacy. Each volume covers one aspect of biology ranging from introduction to biology, to microorganisms, to evolution and ecology.

Chemistry Matters! 10 vol. Grolier, 2007.

This brand new series introduces the working principles that chemists rely on every day and shows students how to apply these same formulas to draw their own conclusions about research, projects and experiments.

The Complete Weather Resource. 4 vol. UXL, 2000.

A clear explanation of weather and weather-related topics. Arranged by topic. Volume four, Recent Developments in World Weather, was added to the original three volume set. Indexed in all four volumes.

Dinosaurs of the World. 11 vol. Marshall Cavendish, 1999.

Alphabetical access to over 2,000 individual dinosaurs. Fact boxes provide ready reference.

Elements. 18 vol. Grolier, 1996 (2002).

A systematic and comprehensive coverage of basic qualities of the elements. Two-page entries include information at varying levels of technical content and language and definitions of useful technical terms.

Endangered Species, 2nd ed., by Sonia Benson. 3 vol. UXL, 2003.

240 entries presenting information on endangered and threatened birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, mollusks, fish, arachnids, insects, crustaceans, and plants.

Forest Trees of Illinois, 9th ed., by Robert H. Mohlenbrock. Illinois Department of Natural Resources, 2006.

A field guide to the trees of Illinois.

Growing Up With Science, 3rd ed. 17 vol. Marshall Cavendish, 2006.

In-depth coverage of the processes, principles and systems of earth, life, physical and space sciences, as well as applied sciences and technology. Each volume is indexed separately with the final volume a cumulative index.

Habitats of the World. 11 vol. Marshall Cavendish, 2006.

Covers habitat diversity, ecosystem dynamics, environmental issues impacting the world today, and the vital role of humans in maintaining habitat diversity and keeping the planet healthy.

International Wildlife Encyclopedia, 3rd ed. 22 vol. Marshall Cavendish, 2002.

Almost every living thing that might be called an animal can be found here. Includes reptiles and insects but not plants. Two-page spreads inform readers of most aspects of the creature's life, as well as much of its scientific classification. Heavily illustrated. A companion resource by the same publisher is *World Wildlife Habitats*, 3 volumes, 1992.

Physics Matters! 10 vol. Grolier, 2001.

Each volume covers one aspect of physics ranging from simple (light, sound) to more complex (electronics, nuclear physics). Includes many pictures and charts. Projects are included at the end of each volume.

Reptiles and Amphibians. 11 vol. Marshall Cavendish, 2003.

Contains broad information about families of reptiles and amphibians as well as about individual species. Classification, habitats, food, reproduction, and survival are topics covered.

Science Experiments Index for Young People, 4th ed., by Mary Anne Pilger.

Libraries Unlimited, 2005.

Index to experiments and activities found in elementary and intermediate science books, intended for use by librarians, teachers, and children. Experiments range from very simple to complex. Books indexed are both old and new; some are out of print, but most are still on library shelves.

UXL Encyclopedia of Landforms and Other Geologic Features, by Rob Nagel. 3 vol. UXL, 2004. Exploring 22 landforms, describing the physical aspects, construction and destruction, famous forms, and further sources for research include books and Web sites.

Wildlife and Plants, 3rd ed. 20 vol. Marshall Cavendish, 2007.

Contains factual data on over 400 different plants and animals for grades 3 and up. Each entry includes key facts such as Latin name, range, habitat, appearance, food, breeding and status.

The World Book of Math Power, 2 vol. World Book, 1996.

Lays out the basics of mathematics. Not a workbook, but a good tool for math rules.

600

CD's, Super Glue, and Salsa: How Everyday Products Are Made, by Sharon Rose and Neil Schlager. 2 vol. per series. UXL, 1995-2002.

Provides information emphasizing current technology, on the invention, manufacturing, and future uses of 30 common high-interest products. Series 2 was published in 1996 and series 3 in 2003, each covering 30 additional products.

Diseases, 3rd rev. ed. 8 vol. Grolier, 2006.

Alphabetically arranged articles present medical information on more than 500 diseases, including SARS and avian flu, discussing sources, symptoms, stages of the disease, its likelihood of striking, treatments, prevention, and long-term effects.

Holidays of the World Cookbook for Students, by Lois Sinaiko Webb. Oryx Press, 1995.

Companion volume to *The Multicultural Cookbook for Students*. This includes recipes from more than 130 countries with an introduction describing local holidays, customs, and foods for each country. Also **Multicultural Cookbook of Life-Cycle Celebrations**.

How It Works: Science and Technology, 3rd ed. 20 vol. Marshall Cavendish, 2003.
The focus of this vast set is on the latest scientific and technological advances with considerable attention given as well to the history of technology. Coverage ranges from great inventions and discoveries to the science behind everyday objects.

Inventors and Inventions, 5 vol. Marshall Cavendish, 2008.
Wide-ranging inventors from the past and present, includes inventors of Kevlar, eBay, and Global positioning Systems. A - Z format, entries include a concise introduction, special feature boxes, photos, diagrams, and illustrations, time lines, further reading, and cross-referencing to related articles.

The Multicultural Cookbook for Students, by Carole Lisa Allyn and Lois Sinaiko Webb. Oryx Press, 1993.
A collection of recipes from over 120 countries. Briefly covers culture and culinary habits.

World of Invention, 2nd ed., edited by Kimberley A. McGrath. Gale, 2001.
Comprehensive, non-technical coverage of well-known and lesser-known inventors and inventions all in one volume.

700

Baker's Student Encyclopedia of Music. 3 vol. Schirmer Books, 1999.
A comprehensive coverage of composers, musical terms, musicians, instruments, genres from classical and jazz to world music in three volumes. Indexed.

The Book of Rules: A Visual Guide to the Laws of Every Commonly Played Sport and Game. Checkmark Books, 1998.
Every important rule of the most commonly played sports and games are explained in simple terms. Diagrams and color photos are included. Indexed.

Encyclopedia of Artists, edited by William H. T. Vaughn. 6 volumes. Oxford University Press, 2000.
Biographies of more than 200 painters, sculptors, and printmakers are given. Each 2-page spread includes biographical information and an example of the artists work with information about that work.

Great Athletes. 8 volumes. Salem Press, 2002.
Lives, sports careers, and unique achievements of 1,058 competitors and champions in succinct one-thousand-word profiles.

Hopscotch, Hangman, Hot Potato, and HaHaHa, by Jack Maguire. Simon & Schuster, 1992.
Clear, complete instructions for more than 250 popular games played in the U.S.

Illustrated Encyclopedia of Musical Instruments, edited by Robert Dearing. Schirmer, 1996.

"Designed to describe in words and pictures the nature and capabilities of all the families of musical instruments." The range of instruments is from the early drum to modern electronic instruments.

[Kididdles](http://kididdles.com/)

<http://kididdles.com/>

Great site for music, especially when looking for lyrics.

Multicultural Projects Index: Things to make and Do to Celebrate Festivals, Cultures, and Holidays Around the World, 4th ed., by Mary Anne Pilger. Libraries Unlimited, 2005.

Hundreds of learning projects to introduce students to costumes, foods, crafts, etc. of cultures and customs around the world. Keep old editions, they are a continuation.

National Anthems of the World, 10th ed., by W. L. Reed and M.J. Bristow. Cassell, 2002.

Indispensable source for the national anthems of 195 countries with lyrics in the original language, transliterated and translated, with musical notation.

The Olympic Games: Athens 1896-Athens 2004. DK, 2004.

Heavily illustrated with photos from all the Games, this includes highlights and dramatic stories and a complete list of all events and medalists.

Sports: the Complete Visual Reference, edited by Francois Fortin. Firefly Books, 2000.

History of more than 120 sports to current evolution, with training techniques, physical environment, key movements, and equipment.

State Songs of the United States: An Annotated Anthology. Haworth Press, 1997. Alphabetically arranged by state, this annotated anthology includes historical notes, lyrics, and musical notation.

800

Children's Writers & Illustrators Market: Where to Sell Your Fiction, Nonfiction, Illustrations and Photos for Every Age Group—from Toddlers to Teens, by Alice Buening. Writer's Digest. Annual.

Step-by-step guide. Includes lists of organizations, workshops and contests.

English Matters! 10 vol. Grolier, 2000.

A multi-volume textbook on the English language featuring alphabetically arranged entries on topics such as grammar style, punctuation, and writing and research skills.

Favorite Children's Authors and Illustrators, E. Russell Primm, III editor-in-chief. 8 vol. Tradition Books, 2007.

Biographical information about authors and illustrators for children and young adults, arranged alphabetically.

Index to Poetry for Children and Young People: 1964-1969. Wilson, 1972.

_____: **1970-1975**. Wilson, 1978.

_____: **1976-1981**. Wilson, 1984.

_____: **1982-1987**. Wilson, 1989.

_____: **1988-1992**. Wilson, 1994.

_____: **1993-1997**. Wilson, 1999.

Indexes to collections of poems for children and youth by title, subject, author and first line. Indispensable for answering those "needle-in-a-haystack" poetry questions.

Punctuation Power, by Marvin Terban. Scholastic, 2000.

Part of the Scholastic Reference Guides series. Explains the purpose and usage of such punctuation marks as commas, colons, slashes, etc.

Scholastic Treasury of Quotations for Children, by Adrienne Betz. Scholastic, 1998.

Organizes quotes into categories representing major school curriculum themes and includes brief biographical information.

Writing with Style, by Sue Young. Scholastic, 1997.

Guide to organizing ideas and writing effectively to get better grades.

900

Ancient Civilizations. 10 vol. Grolier Educational, 2000.

Entries include information about ancient peoples, about aspects of the lives of ancient civilizations, and about famous archeological sites. Time lines and lots of pictures are included.

Chicago Portraits, by June Skinner Sawyers. Loyola University Press, 1991.

Over 250 famous Chicagoans are written about in this source. From Grace Abbott to Florenz Ziegfield, many well-known and hard-to-find people are chronicled here. Great for Illinois and Chicago reports.

Chicago's Famous Buildings, 5th ed., by Franz Schulze. University of Chicago Press, 2003.

An easily accessible handbook. Includes photograph, address, and history of each entry. Also noteworthy are the suburban entries.

CultureGrams. Annual. Proquest.

Briefings on over 165 countries and areas of the world to aid in the understanding of, feeling for, and communication with other people. Great for information if traveling to another country, and a wonderful starting place for country report writers. (Spanish edition available.)

Encyclopedia of Chicago, edited by James R. Grossman, et al. University of Chicago Press, 2004. "A mapping of Chicago's geographic turf, complemented by a comparable cartography of boundaries that are more conceptual and topical than spatial." Range of topics includes architecture, music, literature, arts, politics, social services, religion, immigration, housing and more.

Encyclopedia of Native American Tribes, 3rd ed., rev. ed., by Carl Waldman. Facts on File, 2006.

An alphabetical listing of over 150 Indian tribes of North America, as well as prehistoric peoples and civilizations. The entries range in length, and include information on such topics as social structure, food, houses, religion, wars, language and more. This source can serve as an introduction to a tribe, or provide enough information for a brief report.

Exploring the Middle Ages. 11 vol. Marshall Cavendish, 2006.

The period covered by this absorbing set embraces the thousand-year span, from 500 to 1500, conventionally referred to as the Middle Ages.

Explorers and Exploration. 11 vol. Marshall Cavendish, 2005.

Covers all facets of exploration, focusing on explorers, expeditions, discoveries, means of exploration available at the time, and others who came before or were inspired after. Twenty-three centuries of exploration across the world, under the sea, and into space.

Explorers: From Ancient Times to the Space Age. 3 vol. Macmillan, 1999.

An alphabetical arrangement of explorers with illustrations, maps, biographical information, and suggestions for further reading.

Gale Encyclopedia of Native American Tribes, edited by Sharon Malinowski, et al. 4 vol. Gale, 1998.

Historical, cultural, and current information on nearly 400 Native groups in 13 geographic regions

The Holocaust. 4 vol. Grolier, 1997.

Articles identify and describe individuals and events connected with the persecution of Jews and others across Europe in the 1930's and 1940's.

Holocaust Reference Library. 7 vol. UXL, 1998-1999.

Divided into three two-volume sets, and a cumulative index. Sets cover people, voices, and understanding. More inclusive than Grolier volumes.

Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of Foods and Recipes of the World. 4 vol. UXL, 2002.

Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Canadian Provinces, 5th ed. UXL, 2007.

Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Mexican States. UXL, 2007.

Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations, 5th ed. 10 vol. UXL, 2007.

Juniior Worldmark Encyclopedia of Physical Geography, 5 vol. UXL, 2003.

Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of the States, 5th ed. 4 vol. UXL, 2007.

Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of World Cities. 4 vol. UXL, 2000.

Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of World Cultures and Daily Life. 9 vol. UXL, 1999.

Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of World Holidays. 4 vol. UXL, 2000.
Each set covers what the title says it does, in an easily accessible format for elementary and junior high students.

Macmillan Color Atlas of the States, by Mark Mattson. Macmillan, 1996.
Includes state seal, flag, festivals and events and legal holidays. Covers facts such as cultural features, weather and environmental information, flora and fauna, topography, climate, hydrology, history, population graphs and facts, ethnic facts and graphs, education, agriculture, housing, economy, manufacturing, employment and more. This is a great resource with lots of color illustrations, lots of information, and is visually appealing to students.

Macmillan Encyclopedia of Native American Tribes, by Michael G. Johnson. Macmillan, 1999.
Contains information on tribes broken down by region. Includes detailed illustrations of native dress.

Milestones of the 20th Century, Grolier, 1999.
Includes timelines and articles on international historical and cultural events of the 20th century.

North America in Colonial Times, edited by Jacob Ernest Cooke and Milton M. Klein. 4 vol. Scribner, 1998.
An encyclopedia of life in colonial North America (including Canada). Covers the Spanish, Dutch, English and French influence on architecture and all aspects of daily life in Colonial times. Also of interest would be *Colonial America*, published by Grolier in 1998.

Reformation, Exploration, and Empire. 10 vol. Grolier, 2005.

This curriculum aligned set offers samplings of the important art of the era, maps to show where people ventured, and plenty of sidebars and boxes with additional stories, information and primary source materials.

Renaissance. 10 vol. Grolier, 2002.

These inclusive volumes chronicle the cultural and artistic flowering known as the Renaissance that flourished in Europe and in other parts of the world from approximately 1375 -- 1575 A.D.

The Revolutionary War, by James R. Arnold and Roberta Wiener. 10 vol. Grolier, 2002.

The progression of America's independence explaining the way of life of the people as well as the historical high points of the struggle.

Scholastic Encyclopedia of the United States, by Judy Bock and Rachel Kranz. Scholastic, 1997.

One volume ready reference tool on the states that includes a lengthy fact box of state symbols. Includes a list of further reading for each state. Especially useful is the list of fiction set in each of the states.

State Names, Seals, Flags, and Symbols: A Historical Guide, 3rd ed., rev. and expanded, by Benjamin F. Shearer. Greenwood Press, 2002.

This revised and expanded edition is arranged by subject, such as flags, then by state. Color illustrations.

UXL American Decades, edited by Tom Pendergast and Sara Pendergast. 10 vol., free cumulative index. UXL, 2003.

An overview of the twentieth century which explores what characterizes each decade as expressed through the arts, economy, education, government, politics, fashions, health, science, technology and sports.

Who Was Who in World Exploration, by Carl Waldman. Facts on File, 1992.

An alphabetical arrangement of world explorers up to the mapping of the continent of Antarctica. Includes early life information, a chronology of explorer's important dates, brief synopsis of explorer's career, some maps and photographs. A 1999 edition is an unabridged republication of the 1992 edition.

World Book of America's Presidents. 2 vol. World Book, 2005.

Discusses the power and duties of the United States president and steps in a presidential election and provides portraits of each president from Washington through George W. Bush.

World Book Encyclopedia of People and Places. 6 vol. World Book, 2007.

Presents information on individual nations in an encyclopedia format. Includes an overview of the nation's history, geography, economy, people, culture and current political status.

World Book's Encyclopedia of Flags. 12 vol. World Book, 2005.

This set is highlighted by full-color presentation of the flags of countries, states, provinces and territories. A history of the country, state, province or territory represented by each flag is given, along with a history of the evolution of the flag. The 2007 edition appears to be a reprint of the 2005.

World War II. 10 vol. Grolier, 2006.

This 10 volume set gives information about the start of the war and aftermaths of the war as well as coverage of the many facets of the fighting. Geared for older elementary and junior high.