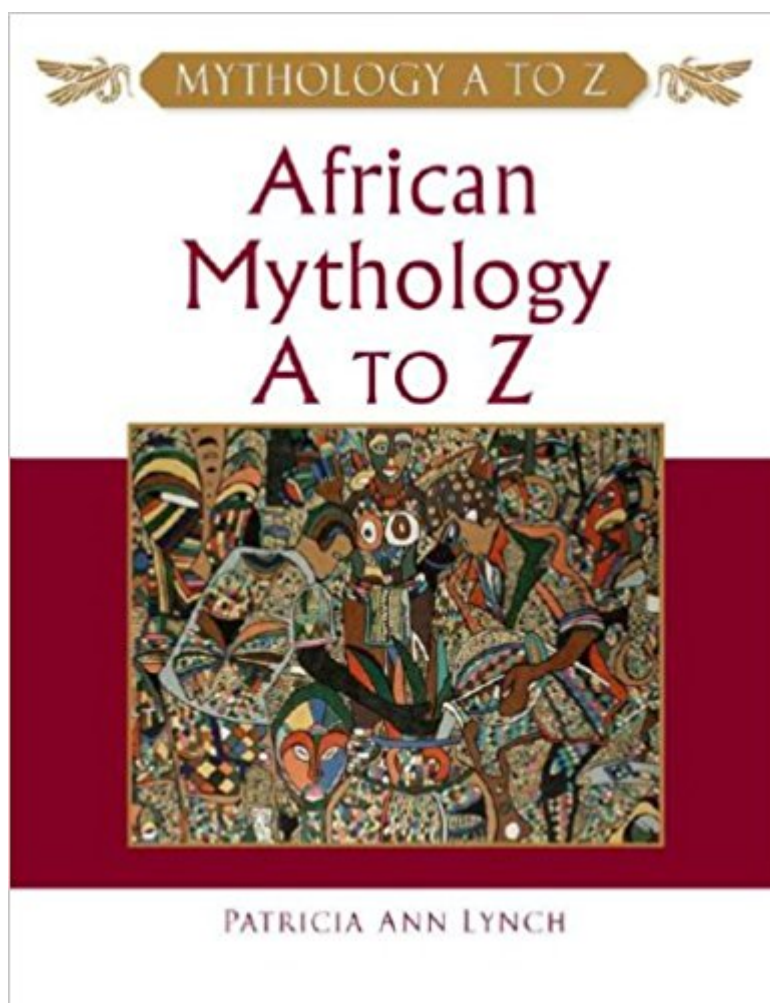


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African Mythology A To Z



Synopsis

The first humans may have come from Africa, and many great civilizations have flourished there. From the long history of human habitation in Africa; the diverse geography, flora, and fauna of the continent; and the variety of African cultural beliefs comes a fascinating and strong tradition of myth. African Mythology A to Z is a readable reference to the deities, places, events, animals, beliefs, and other subjects that appear in the myths of various African peoples. With nearly 300 entries written to inform and appeal to young people - and illustrations accompanying the text throughout - this valuable resource sheds light on a subject that many Americans, young and old, find themselves drawn to study. With an introduction that provides historical context for better understanding the myths, African Mythology A to Z fully describes, defines, and explains key stories, characters, themes, and other aspects of the myths of African peoples.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This volume is part of the Mythology A to Z series from Facts On File. Each volume in the series has a similar format: an introduction includes a history of the culture(s), an explanation of the book, and a pronunciation guide, followed by a time line and a map. The main text is an alphabetical listing of names, places, and ideas important to the mythology of the culture. The definitions are mostly brief--a single paragraph--although some are as lengthy as a page. Many black-and-white illustrations, mostly of artifacts, enhance the text. Each volume includes a good bibliography with

Internet addresses. The series is designed for young people in junior high and high school, and it is appropriate for younger children who are better readers or interested in mythology. There is not much storytelling since the volumes are intended to be encyclopedias rather than collections of stories. They will help students to make connections between mythological characters and images and compare similarities between cultures. The indexes are constructed to help make those connections, too. Although the pronunciation guides in the introductions are excellent, a young audience also needs pronunciations at appropriate entry headings. It is difficult to remember strange pronunciations or to flip to the front of the book to figure out how to say foreign names.

Multiculturalism and world history are an integral part of most school curricula, and the Mythology A to Z series fits both of these themes. This title is an excellent introduction to the mythologies of African cultures and should be in most public and school libraries. Robin Hoelle
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I had a look at several books from this series in the reference section of my library. The information from all meshed with that I found in other sources. It's all introductory material, as would be expected from such a series, but there was information given for many different groups, rather than focusing only on the most well known cultures. I don't recall now whether or not the entry Lion included information about the Egyptians as I made notes on what I didn't already know, but three other groups were also mentioned. The entry Leopard also had similar substance. These would provide a good starting point for further research.

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