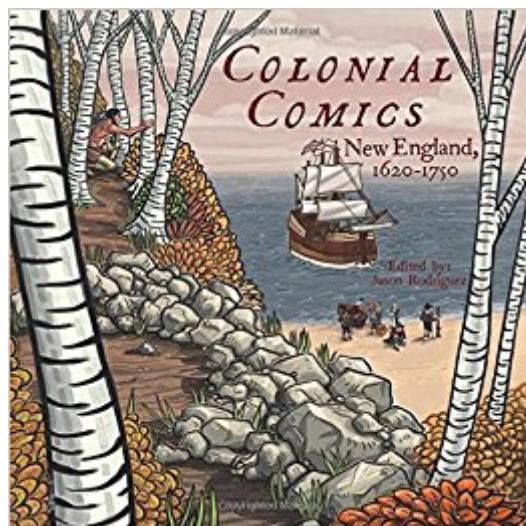


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Colonial Comics: New England: 1620 - 1750



Synopsis

Colonial Comics is a graphic novel collection of 20 stories focusing on the colonial period from 1620 through 1750 in New England. Stories about Puritans and free thinkers, Pequots and Jewish settlers, female business owners and dedicated school teachers, whales and livestock, slavery and frontiers, and many other aspects of colonial life.

Book Information

Series: Colonial Comics

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #202,119 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Comics & Graphic Novels > History #21 in Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > History #36 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > United States > Colonial & Revolutionary Periods

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 4 - 12

Customer Reviews

Gr 5 Up •A collection of illustrated stories covering lesser known topics in American colonial history. The first in a series of comics based on underrepresented stories of the time period, the work uses primary and secondary sources, and is told in a way that makes the information accessible to students. All of the entries contain a brief introduction that assumes a basic amount of historical knowledge before presenting the story. Each vignette is short enough to keep the interest of most readers. All of the narratives are excellent, concise, and easy to follow. The illustrations, however, are a mixed bag. Some are sepia-toned, some black-and-white with splashes of other primary colors, some muddy, and others are colored brightly. None of the color schemes seem to be related to the narrative being told. The artwork ranges from realistic to almost clownish, and, as such, detracts from the general cohesion of the work •a weakness in the collection.

Especially effective in this volume are the entries by Charles Fetherolf, E.J. Barnes, and Matt Rawson. VERDICT This may find a place in collections where graphic histories and other nonfiction comics are popular. —Suanne B. Roush, formerly at Osceola High School, Seminole, FL

Named a 2014 BEA Comic Buzz Book by School Library Journal and Comic Book ResourcesChosen as one of the Top Books of 2014 by GeekDadNominated as a Great Graphic Novel for Teens by the Young Adult Library Services AssociationThis collection of stories about early New England will appeal to kids of all ages. These fascinating stories concern both well-known and little-known New Englanders, including settlers, slaves and Native Americans. We meet everyone from Anne Hutchinson to Yankee whalers. These engaging tales are beautifully illustrated and grounded in the latest scholarship. Highly recommended for kids of all ages! —Dr. Frank Cogliano, Professor of American History, University of EdinburghJason Rodriguez has edited a visually attractive book that will encourage young readers to acquire a more meaningful understanding of Colonial America's history by helping make the stories come alive.—Julian L. Lapides, past president, Baltimore Heritage, Inc.This book is smart, surprising, fun and educational. Each story has its own visual and verbal style but all will delight, intrigue, and enlighten both novice and expert alike.—James David Moran, Director of Outreach, American Antiquarian SocietyRodriguez manages a good balance throughout —from wordless tales to text-heavy historical factoids. From almost comic lighthearted illustrations to woodblock type carvings and beautiful pastel watercolors [...] The stories are interesting enough to read for enjoyment value; but of course, the historical value cannot be understated. Since these are stories that rarely have been told outside of academic circles, there isn't any repetition of typical historical discussions about the founding of the colonies. Each story should be quite new to the reader. As well, the length of the stories make this a great book to use as a reading assignment.—Online Eccentric Librarian blogA beautiful anthology of colonial historical vignettes [...] the book is best suited for middle graders to high school and the book's website is making educator guides for the stories. However, the material is perfectly satisfying to the adult reader and the art is varied and showcases a variety of styles. I found it quite impressive and highly readable.—It's All Comics To Me blogI was blown away. The stories are presented in varying styles, but always with the emphasis on the storytelling. Each story was crafted out of a surprising amount of information, but never felt, forgive the term, —educational.— Sure, I learned a lot from reading the book, but it was presented in such an aesthetically pleasing way that it didn't feel like I was being tricked into learning, the way so many educational comics do.—Brian Salvatore, Multiversity Comics

In the first of three proposed anthologies, beautifully produced comics reveal the rich, often overlooked lives of Native Americans, women, and servants in colonial New England. Each of the two dozen selections is based on primary sources, and most pieces feature individuals whose names can be found fairly readily elsewhere. Unlike those other resources, however, the selections in this anthology take the vantage point of more marginalized groups, bringing attention to the people history has tended to view as mere props to stories featuring white male upper-class settlers.

—Booklist Gr 5 Up–A collection of illustrated stories covering lesser known topics in American colonial history. The first in a series of comics based on underrepresented stories of the time period, the work uses primary and secondary sources, and is told in a way that makes the information accessible to students. All of the entries contain a brief introduction that assumes a basic amount of historical knowledge before presenting the story. Each vignette is short enough to keep the interest of most readers. All of the narratives are excellent, concise, and easy to follow.

VERDICT This may find a place in collections where graphic histories and other nonfiction comics are popular. –Suanne B. Roush, formerly at Osceola High School, Seminole, FL for School Library Journal How do we get kids these days interested in history? One way to do that is through comics like this collection does [...] Each story is fairly short, so if they do not like one story they can quickly move onto the next. Also by being brief it can cover a lot of ground, time wise, in a short amount of space. This book is perfect for those students, and educators, who are in middle school.

—Portland Book Review

A fantastic collection of stories, diverse and well-told, and filled with some great artwork. It's fascinating stuff for anyone interested in history, regardless of whether it's your own or not. I'm definitely looking forward to follow-up!

Great gift for youngsters that love comics and history!

A beautiful anthology of colonial historical vignettes in the same vein as Matt Dembicki's collections. In fact, Dembicki has illustrated a story in this collection. I'm actually only familiar with a couple of the authors or illustrators but I found the stories and art top-notch. This chronological history of New England tells the lesser known tales and I had not heard many of them, even though they are populated with famous people. Because the stories are chronological, geographically specific and focused on a set time period, often characters will reappear in several stories, sometimes as a major player, other times as a background figure. The book is best suited for middle graders to high

school and the book's website is making educator guides for the stories. However, the material is perfectly satisfying to the adult reader and the art is varied and showcases a variety of styles. I found it quite impressive and highly readable.

Colonial Comics: New England starts with one of the best prefaces I've ever encountered: Editor Rodriguez wryly noting that prior to this book, his knowledge of New England history and the founding of America was pretty much limited to, "a country that was once inhabited by other nationals, reduced to several cities, a single Native American, a group of people who weren't happy in England, and some charred bodies." It was to correct that lack and bring to life individual histories - to give perspective to the founding portion of American history- that this book's stories were collected. Quoting Rodriguez again, "these people did more than eat turkey and burn suspected witches." And yes, it is a very, very good book indeed. The title is a bit misleading - this is a full color graphic novel (or, rather, a graphic history book) and not a comic. Ordered chronologically, this is a collection of very short stories that are loosely tied together by the shared history of a New England setting. All are about people and events, ramifications and repercussions, and the every day life of both Europeans and the natives. Each story is by a different author/artist. Typically, I have a hard time with diverse collections since the abruptness of art styles or storytelling can be disconcerting and throw off a read. But the nature of the stories and the non-fiction grounding make the style differences not only palatable but enjoyable. The stories are just long enough that one didn't get hooked on a particular style (art or storytelling) but not so short that they were disaffecting, either. Rodriguez manages a good balance throughout - from wordless tales to text-heavy historical factoids. From almost comic lighthearted illustrations to woodblock type carvings and beautiful pastel watercolors. The stories are diverse: from the impact of the introduction of domesticated animals to the plight of indentured servants. Goodwives, clergy, governors, inkeepers, chiefs, braves - a lot of care was given to bring stories that represented all sides of New England life in the 1620 to 1750 time period. There are around 15 full color stories, ranging from landing in Plimouth (sc) to the last stands of the new England natives. There are also frontisplates with short descriptions of time periods in which the following stories would be set and reproductions of parts of important documents of the period. Finally, there are activities such as an origami mayflower to be made from cutouts of a book page. The stories are interesting enough to read for enjoyment value; but of course, the historical value cannot be understated. Since these are stories that rarely have been told outside of academic circles, there isn't any repetition of typical historical discussions about the founding of the colonies. Each story should be quite new to the reader. As well, the length of the

stories make this a great book to use as a reading assignment - to discuss the thoughts presented within. The authors/artists don't pander or spoonfeed the history: a great example is the last story in the book, about a young midshipman named Meliville and the day his crew fought and captured a large pale whale. The name of the midshipman is only given once, in passing - a wonderful observation of restraint and avoidance of overtelling the obvious. I really enjoyed the stories and plan to share them with my 11 year old. As the editor notes, "they're stories about people, which are oftentimes more interesting than stories about caricatures." Reviewed from an ARC. Quotes may not be final.

This is a beautiful book! I have never been very interested in American History but this book is written about several different events that took place during colonial times and they were all very interesting. The stories are all short and beautifully illustrated by many different talented artists. I would have loved to been able to read something like this in 4th grade when the whole year was dedicated to learning about Virginian History...a lot of focus being Virginia during the Colonial times. My daughter is 3 but already loves comics and I'm sure she'll love this book when she's older.

Loved it. This book made the history feel real by taking the time to show us all sorts of people that would be supporting characters in a streamlined narrative of the history. The stories in the book are chronological but short so it's a quick read even though it's a LOT of stories. Some of the art I enjoyed more than others but everything seemed to fit the style of the story.

Awful

Not impressed.

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