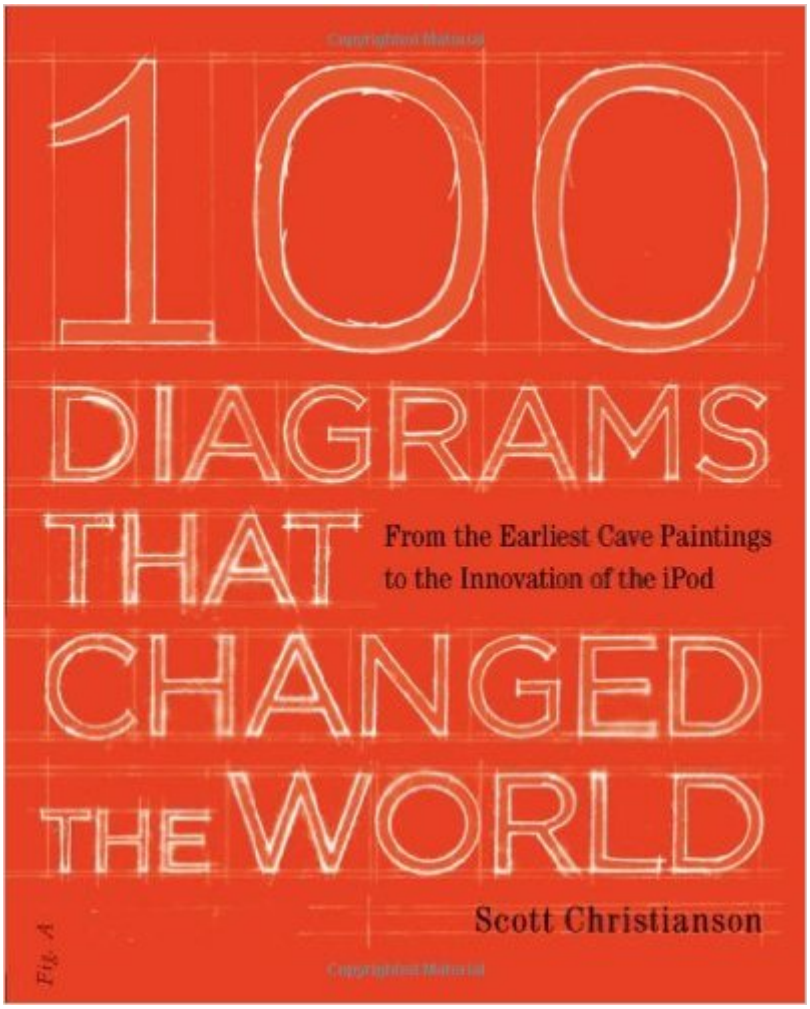
100 Diagrams That Changed The World: From The Earliest Cave Paintings To The Innovation Of The IPod



Synopsis

Recommended by The New York Times Book ReviewÂ ["This handsomely designed volume makes a case for the diagrams...provoking many 'aha moments.'"]A collection of the most important ideas, theories, and concepts of all time100 Diagrams That Changed the World is a fascinating collection of the most significant plans, sketches, drawings, and illustrations that have influenced and shaped the way we think about the world. From primitive cave paintings to Leonardo da Vinciâ ™s Vitruvian Man to the complicated DNA helix drawn by Crick and Watson to the innovation of the iPod, they chart dramatic breakthroughs in our understanding of the world and its history. Arranged chronologically, each diagram is accompanied by informative text that makes even the most scientific breakthrough accessible to all.Â Beautifully illustrated in full color, this book will not only inform but also entertain as it demonstrates how the power of a single drawing can enhance, change, or even revolutionize our understanding of the world. With its iconic images and powerful explanations, 100 Diagrams That Changed the World is perfect for readers of The History of the World in 100 Objects, and is the ideal gift for anyone interested in culture, history, science, or technology.Â Â

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As is the usual preamble, I received this book as part of a GoodReads giveaway.For most purposes this rather brief tome is serviceable as a coffee table book. Each entry is given one page devoted to the diagram with a half page of text to describe it. In general the author does a good job of choosing his topics and while most are already familiar to any individual of average erudition there are some

new tidbits to be gleaned. As a book to be read from cover to cover it does become somewhat daunting because the author’s text is often very brief and very high level and one can never quite settle into any particular topic before being shuffled off rather quickly to the next. The chronological ordering of the book is exactly what one would wish for in such a work and the full breadth of history has considered.On the constructive side of my observations it seems evident that the author had some difficulty coming around to 100 ’diagrams’ for inclusion. Many of the entries can only marginally be called diagrams at all (or the diagrams are really only secondary to the significance of the achievement being documented) while others are of dubious significance to begin with. The idea that a sketch for the iPod should appear in a book alongside Copernicus and da Vinci is, in this reviewer’s opinion, an affront to any reasonable view on how we could what is significant and what is not in the grand scale of history. Lastly in this vein the text at times seems rushed and perhaps suffers from over-editing. The chosen textual format is so short that no real background can be properly conveyed and the reader suffers a bit from whiplash.In summary, this book would make a reasonable addition to the coffee table but cannot be considered for any serious reading. It would have been better served as a book containing half as many diagrams but with much expanded text.

I agreee with a previous reviewer about this being a (relatively small) coffee table book - nice pictures. However, I only got as far as 1900 BC - Pythagoras’ Theorem - before I hit this egregious error: "the square of the hypotenuse equals the sum of the other two sides". If this is the extent of the author’s (and his scientific fact-checkers’) skills, I don’t think I want it lying on my coffee table.

This was a beautiful book, readable and inspiring, that can appeal to readers of many levels, with varied interests. If is full of fascinating stories. It not only introduced me and my 12 year old son to some amazing discoveries from history, but it also gave the back story on the diagrams we were already familiar with. The original ipod diagram was one of his favorites. The combination of text and images is very powerful. 100 Diagrams is scholarly, yet accessible. I previously read another book by this author about a runaway slave and can say that this author is a very skilled story teller. While the topic of 100 Diagrams was quite different, it has the same combination of solid historical foundation and entertainment.The size of this book appeals to me, because, unlike other books with beautiful illustrations, it fits on a normal size bookshelf.

What is in the book is not so important as how one "uses" this book. Wow, what a great opportunity to share with middle school students. Take one diagram and discuss it with your child or grandchild:

the importance of the diagram; why it came about when it did; what problem was the "artist" trying to solve when drawing the diagram. Sort of the "facebook" or "twitter" of science, I suppose.100 diagrams.214 pages (not including index, etc).So, with 214 pages and 100 diagrams, it works out to about one page for each diagram, and one page devoted to an explanatory note by the author.Diagrams in chronological order, of course.Leonardo da Vinci: credited with three drawings.Steve Jobs: one drawing.Apple Corp (the computer company): one drawing.Absent: Stephen Hawking. Albert Einstein. Bohr. Atom. Christopher Columbus. Board games (Monopoly). Story boards (Star Wars, The Lord of The Rings).Most surprising: "graded sewing patterns."

Fascinating look at 100 Diagrams that changed the world from Egyptian Book of the Dead and Rosetta Stone to Da Vinci’s Vitruvian Man and Bell’s first sketch for the telephone. Each page is a double spread showing the diagram (in color) and a page of description including what year each is from and why they are so important. Informative, light, interesting, clever and a great gift book. I love paging through this book.

As a teacher, I use this magnificent book regularly. Whether I have students guess what the diagram might be or I read information that is accessible and intriguing, this book is one of the best resources I’ve ever purchased. Each diagram is beautifully and clearly displayed, with a corresponding page devoted to background information as well as a complete overview of the mechanics of the diagram/graphic/art and how it changed the course of mankind. Text is clearly written with historical information knowledgeably relayed, unbiased, and thorough. The 100 diagrams chosen cover the full gamut of time, location and usage, with ideas included that range from universally known to more obscure, but equally compelling ideas. Although a wonderfully scholarly resources, this book can also be picked up and leafed through as a "light" read. Ideas and concepts are so compelling it can serve as both a coffee table book (although this feels a bit sacrilegious) or as a consistently used resource guide and companion.

Course of History: A Nautical History of the World (Fifty Things That Changed the Course of History) Glaciation and Speleogenesis: Interpretations from the Northeastern United States (Cave and Karst Systems of the World) Unmistakably Black: Sculpture and Paintings From The World's First Civilisation (Egypt Only) The Story of the World: History for the Classical Child: Volume 1: Ancient Times: From the Earliest Nomads to the Last Roman Emperor How to Eat Paleo: (When You Don't Live in a Cave) Stone Houses and Earth Lords: Maya Religion in the Cave Context (Mesoamerican Worlds) Beneath the Cloud Forests: A History of Cave Exploration in Papua New Guinea Foreign Sailors on Socotra: The inscriptions and drawings from the cave Hoq (Vergleichende Studien Zu Antike Und Orient) Darkness Beckons: The History and Development of Cave Diving A Diverse Homonoid Fauna from the Late Middle Pleistocene Breccia Cave of the Tham Khwan Socialist Repubic of Vietnam (Anthropological Papers of the) THE CAVE DIVERS 100 Documents That Changed the World: From the Magna Carta to Wikileaks Bad Girls Throughout History: 100 Remarkable Women Who Changed the World Absolute Beginner's Guide to iPod and iTunes, 3rd Edition The Unauthorized Guide to iPhone, iPad, and iPod Repair: A DIY Guide to Extending the Life of Your iDevices!