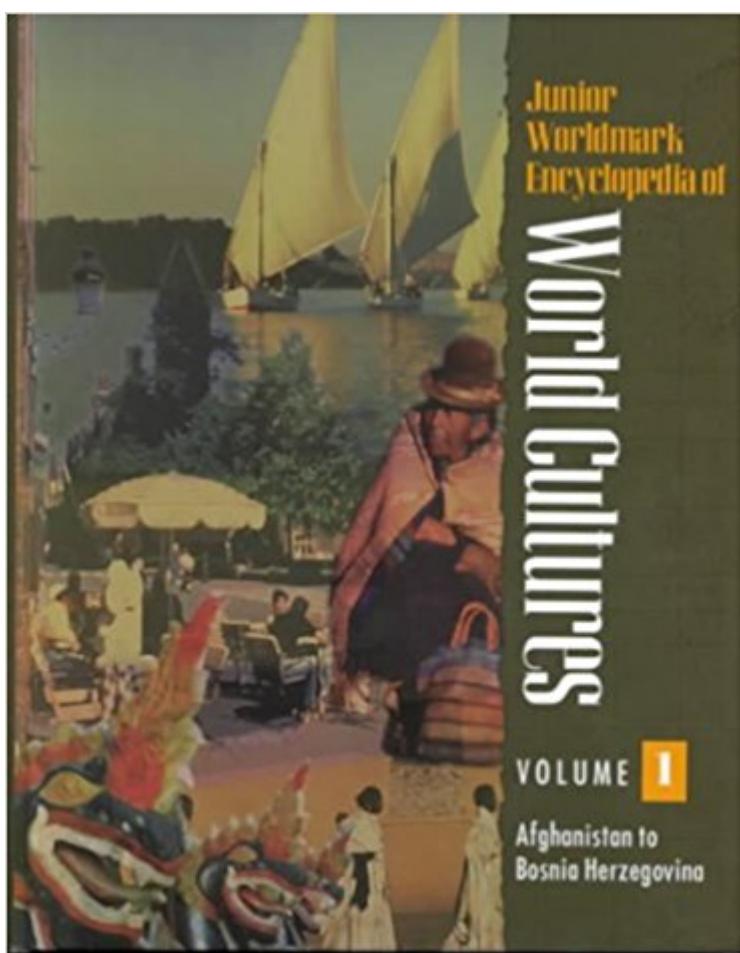


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# **Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia Of World Cultures: 9 Volume Set (Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia Of World Cultures)**



## Book Information

Hardcover: 2090 pages

Publisher: UXL; 1 edition (September 11, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0787617563

ISBN-13: 978-0787617561

Product Dimensions: 9.8 x 7.7 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 16.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #10,915,425 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #96 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Reference > Encyclopedias #1593 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Children's #7165 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Social Science

## Customer Reviews

Grade 5 Up?Described as a sister set to the Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations (Gale, 1996), this resource provides concise, readable information on the "traditions, living conditions, and personalities" of 295 culture groups outside of the United States. Countries are arranged alphabetically and subdivided by culture group; where one culture crosses political boundaries, cross-references are provided. Each article is organized into 20 headings and covers such topics as language, folklore, religion, major holidays, family life, clothing, food, recreation, and social problems. Each entry concludes with a bibliography containing print sources and useful Web sites for the country's embassy, government, and travel and tourism sites. Intermittent sidebars feature recipes or activity instructions (e.g., a recipe for kimchi and "Make a Shield Kite" in the article on South Koreans). Occasional black-and-white photographs and maps contribute to an understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity. The short and engaging articles are based on entries in the Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life (Gale, 1998) and targeted to appeal to a younger audience. The downside of brevity is some unfortunate ethnic characterization ("Israelis love to eat and do it often"), and a lack of candor on human rights issues (no mention of female genital mutilation, for example). In spite of these shortcomings, this is a valuable and timely resource with considerable assignment value.?Mary Ann Carcich, Brooklyn Public Library, NYCopyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

There have been a number of encyclopedias of ethnology published in the last few years. This trend is probably due at least in part to the refocusing of educational curriculum from a geopolitical approach to an emphasis on multicultural awareness. This latest offering is from UXL, the Gale Group imprint that publishes resources aimed specifically at middle-school students. Based on Gale's *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life* [RBB My 1 98], this set features rewritten articles that consider the traditions, living conditions, and other characteristics of more than 290 culture groups. This set's organization parallels that of its sister publication, *Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations* [RBB My 1 96]. The nine individually numbered volumes feature a straight alphabetical listing of 71 countries, Afghanistan through Zimbabwe. Each country entry begins with a one-paragraph overview of its population composition, followed by individual culture group entries, ranging from coverage of one or two groups (Liechtensteiners, Seychellois, Trinidadians and Tobagonians) through multiple listings for more populous nations (six for both Russia and Spain, seven for India, eight for China), in order according to population size. Culture group entries are organized according to a standardized 20-heading outline. This includes a fact summary (pronunciation, alternate names, population size, etc.), and brief descriptions of location, language, folklore (with some excerpts from traditional stories), religion, rites of passage, family life, clothing, food, education, cultural heritage, recreation, social problems, and more. Bibliographies list age-appropriate articles, benchmark publications, standard reference works, and Web sites. Sprinkled throughout the text are maps, black-and-white captioned photos, vocabulary lists of foreign terms and phrases, and typical recipes that have been Americanized and that call for ingredients readily available in most supermarkets. An identical glossary of more than 150 terms appears in each volume, as does an index covering all nine volumes. Index terms are limited to culture groups, countries, and regions. Numerous cross-references are provided throughout the set. Text is laid out in a double-column format and features a crisp font on bright white paper. Information is presented in manageable paragraphs with bulleted, numbered outline headings. The lack of color illustrations in no way diminishes the set's visual appeal. Representative as opposed to comprehensive (there is no entry for the U.S., for example), and concerned with present-day status versus historical development, this set will be useful as introductory material and should be considered as an enhancement to standard titles. Used in conjunction with the aforementioned *Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations*, or a comparable set, such as *Lands and Peoples* [RBB JI 97], this resource is most appropriate for elementary-and middle-school collections or those serving ESL/LEP populations. Libraries desiring more complete coverage or serving a more sophisticated clientele might be better served by the parent set, *Worldmark Encyclopedia of*

Cultures and Daily Life, which covers more than 500 culture groups. Public, middle, and high-school libraries should also consider Marshall Cavendish's Peoples of the Americas [RBB Ap 1 99], more suited to student research projects but limited to North and South America.

If you are doing a school report and trying to tie it all together, then this would be a great asset! This book gives you so many different aspects of culture such as recipes specific to that country, languages and alphabets, clothing, employment, recreation and social problems. Perfect for the teacher who wants everything!!! I didn't particularly like the lack of color pictures, everything was black and white! Great for your local library to purchase!

A gem!

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