

SOURCES

Pilot,” or “Marine Police.” The *Encyclopedia of Marine Science* does cover all the scientific and technical terms you would expect; the addition of some basic seafaring terms is a bonus.

The encyclopedia is written for a wide audience, from high school students to scientists. The style is easy to follow and explains all the terms that laypeople may not understand. The many black-and-white illustrations and tables support this effort. The appendixes include background information, like the periodic table and a list of geologic time periods.

There are two recent multivolume encyclopedias that must be compared with this work: the *Encyclopedia of Ocean Sciences*, edited by Steele, Turekian, and Thorpe (Academic Press, 2001) and the *Interdisciplinary Encyclopedia of Marine Sciences* by Nybakken, Broenkow, and Vallier (Grolier Academic Reference, 2003). The first is a six-volume work, the second has four volumes. Both works are obviously larger and provide more content than the *Encyclopedia of Marine Science*. The *Encyclopedia of Ocean Sciences*, while older, is aimed at a college-level or above audience, and the entries read that way. The *Interdisciplinary Encyclopedia of Marine Sciences* has an audience similar to the *Encyclopedia of Marine Science*.

Larger high school and public libraries that don't have the other two encyclopedias should consider purchasing the *Encyclopedia of Marine Science*. Academic libraries may not need to purchase this volume if they own one or both of the other encyclopedias, and I don't suggest purchasing this one-volume work to update the other two, which are larger and more detailed.—Robin N. Sinn, *Librarian for Science and Engineering, The Sheridan Libraries, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland*

Encyclopedia of the Peoples of Asia and Oceania. Ed. by Barbara A. West. Facts On File Library of World History. New York: Facts On File, 2009. 2 vols. acid free \$175 (ISBN 978-0-8160-7109-8).

The *Encyclopedia of the Peoples of Asia and Oceania* is a two-volume reference set that provides information on roughly four hundred groups located in Asia and Oceania. Barbara A. West and the twenty-five contributors had many difficult choices to make on what groups would be included because “Asia and Oceania are broad and dynamic regions that encompass the two largest countries on Earth by population, China and India, and the largest by territory, Russia” (xvii).

Entries vary in length, and the majority of these entries are organized according to geography, origins, history, and culture. Entries may also include sidebar information about location, time period, ancestry, religion, and language. There are sixty-three nationality entries that “are defined by citizenship rather than by language, ethnicity, or some other cultural trait” (xix). Some of the nationality entries include essays about Australians, Fijians, Tongans, and Vietnamese. These are longer entries that include timelines, further reading lists, and more descriptive essays about the people. The timelines that are provided are useful for their up-to-date information.

There are cross-references available for certain groups, pointing the user to alternate entry names. This set also in-

cludes black-and-white maps and photographs. There are seven appendixes in volume 2. Appendix 1 is particularly functional, as it organizes the groups by country.

The *Encyclopedia of the Peoples of Asia and Oceania* is a valuable source for its inclusion of many different peoples. However, because so many groups are included, the depth at which each is covered is limited. West explains that “we made choices to cover the most important dates and events that we believe contributed to each group's contemporary position or ultimate demise” (xvi). This set does not include racial groups or caste groups. Contemporary people groups and also historical groups like the Greeks are represented.

Although readers will discover valuable information about a group's culture, they may not see that much information about the peoples' art, clothing, literature, or music. Users could refer to other ethnology reference sources like Timothy L. Gall's *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life*, vol. 3, *Asia and Oceania* (Gale, 1998) or David Levinson's *Encyclopedia of World Cultures* (G. K. Hall, 1991–1996) for more detailed cultural information, yet these reference books are not as inclusive or current as the *Encyclopedia of the Peoples of Asia and Oceania*.

Overall, this reference work is an authoritative and appropriate place for students to start their research on a particular Asian or Oceanic group of people. Recommended for public and college libraries.—Megan Coder, *Senior Assistant Librarian, State University of New York, New Paltz*

Environmental Science in Context. Ed. by Brenda W. Lerner and K. L. Lerner. Detroit: Gale, 2008. 2 vols. \$245 (ISBN 978-1-4144-3617-3).

This work is part of Gale's In Context series. It is aimed primarily at high school students but would also be appropriate to a general readership. The series supports and aligns with national science standards and high school curriculums across subject areas. The focus is on the “impacts of science on social, political, and legal issues” (xxiii).

Environmental Science in Context is a two-volume set with almost 250 entries and about 1,000 pages. The introductory information for the work is duplicated at the beginning of each volume. This consists of a complete table of contents that covers both volumes; the section “About This Book,” which explains the structure of the work and the entries with a section on bibliographic citation formats; a section on using primary sources, which explains what they are and how to use them; a glossary; and a chronology. Having this material in both volumes is extremely helpful. The discussion of citation formats is very thorough and should be helpful to student, teacher, and librarian alike. The primary sources section is also very helpful and is a concept sometimes overlooked or not well understood at the high school level. The glossary is extensive. While the chronology is interesting, I am not certain of the usefulness in such a broad subject area. A well-designed, comprehensive index and a bibliography, entitled “Sources Consulted,” are found at the back of volume 2.

The entries are arranged alphabetically. Each entry fol-

lows a standard format with recurring sections: “Introduction,” “Historical Background and Scientific Foundations,” “Impacts and Issues,” and a “Words to Know” box that highlights vocabulary. There are “see also” recommendations for other entries in the work. There is a brief bibliography for each entry that may contain citations to books, periodicals, and websites. The length of the entries varies from two to nine pages according to the subject matter. Some of the more lengthy entries have sections titled “In Context,” which summarize an important concept related to the subject. Other entries have “Primary Source Connection” sections. These sections are reprints of previously published articles on the subject of the entry. Each “Primary Source Connection” has an introduction explaining the importance of the article, and a citation for the article is at the end. The work is illustrated, but not extensively so.

Environmental Science in Context is an ambitious work. The topic is broad and interdisciplinary. The entries range from recent science, scientific concepts, and scientific organizations to Walden and Silent Spring. Political and social science issues such as test ban treaties, hunting practices, and United Nations policy and activism are also addressed. The entries are clearly written, informative, and authoritative.

I believe the work would be valuable in a high school, and perhaps even a middle school or public library as a reference resource. However, the cost might be a bit too steep for many of these types of libraries.—*Suzanne T. Larsen, Faculty Director, Jerry Crail Johnson Earth Sciences and Map Library and Oliver C. Lester Mathematics and Physics Library; Acting Faculty Director, Science Library, University of Colorado, Boulder*

The Facts on File Companion to British Poetry: 1900 to the Present. Ed. by James Persoon and Robert R. Watson. Facts on File Library of World Literature. New York: Facts on File, 2009. 576p. acid free \$85 ISBN 978-08160-6406-9).

The editors of this volume, James Persoon and Robert R. Watson, both English Professors from Grand Valley State University, state that “the selection of entries was largely determined by combing through textbooks and anthologies,” while they also sought to “expand the horizon of the reader . . . beyond what is most commonly taught” (v). To this end, the editors succeed in covering all the major works and poets while also including many poets not often studied and emerging voices in British poetry. The editors broadly define British Poetry as “the world community of poets writing in English, minus the Americans” (v). Other similar works have taken a broader approach in defining English Poetry as all poetry written in the English language, including Americans, so poets who could be considered either British or American, such as Hughes, Plath, and Auden, are included.

By leaving out the Americans, this volume gains room to offer a selection of thorough entries on both commonly taught works as well as the obscure, which includes close readings and explication of the poems as well as social, historical, and biographical contexts. All the major poems one would expect

are covered, while lesser-known or contemporary poems such as “The Fat Black Woman Remembers” and “The Death of Joy Gardner” are also included. The attention given to often neglected periods in British poetry such as World War I is also a strong point of this work. For example, the major poets of World War I such as Wilfred Owen and Isaac Rosenberg have several works and biographical entries, but the inclusion of other war poets such as Charles Hamilton Sorley and his “A Letter From the Trenches to a School Friend” reveal the efforts of the editors to represent important poets from all of the twentieth century, regardless of if they have fallen out of the popular canon. Also, many contemporary poets such as Carol Ann Duffy, with entries on five poems, are included in this volume.

Each biographical entry chronicles the major events in the author’s life and explains the poet’s major themes and works. The up-to-date bibliographies for entries consist of a biographical source, the author’s major collected or selected works, and a book of criticism on the poet. The 450 entries, ranging in length from 300 to 2,500 words, are signed by contributing academics from across the world. All major critical concepts, movements, and the major events that influenced British Poetry (for example, the Spanish Civil War and World War II) are also well covered. The appendix features a brief glossary with clear explanations of poetry terminology such as “enjambment” and “heroic couplet.”

A similar work, *The Oxford Companion to Twentieth Century Poetry* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 1996), which includes American poets, does not include analyses of individual poems, and because of its publication date does not include any twenty-first-century poetry, as this work does. *A Companion to Twentieth-Century Poetry* (Blackwell, 2001) is another excellent source on twentieth-century poetry in English consisting of in-depth essays on national poetries, movements, topics, and readings of major individual poets, but it doesn’t have the breadth of coverage of individual poets and poems as this work.

The Facts on File Companion to British Poetry: 1900 to Present fills an important gap in the reference literature in twentieth-century British poetry, which was in need of an updated work, and will be useful for a variety of students and patrons who will no doubt find the writing accessible. Highly recommended for high school, public, and academic libraries.—*Shannon Pritting, Coordinator of Access Services, the State University of New York, Oswego*

Latino America: A State-by-State Encyclopedia. Ed. by Mark Overmyer-Velázquez. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 2 vols. alkaline \$175 (ISBN 978-0-313-34116-8).

This two-volume work, published by Greenwood and edited by University of Connecticut Associate Professor Mark Overmyer-Velázquez, charts the historical and contemporary contributions of Latinos throughout the United States. The encyclopedia approaches its material from a geographical perspective, with a chapter devoted to each of the fifty states.

The chapters are penned by different authors, but contain