

Children's Literature Reviews

Item 10 of 130

The Delaware

Raymond Bial.

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New York : Marshall Cavendish Benchmark, c2005.

127 p. : ill. (some col.), col. map ; 25 cm.

Annotations:

Includes bibliographical references (p. 117-120) and index.

Origins -- Villages -- Lifeways -- Beliefs -- Changing world -- New ways.

Discusses the history, culture, beliefs, changing ways, and notable people of the Delaware.

Horn Book Guide:

Fall 2006 Nonfiction-History Rating 3, Recommended, satisfactory in style, content, and/or illustration.

Reviews:

Gwynne Spencer (Children's Literature)

Part of the "Lifeways" Series which includes twenty-eight tribes, this book follows the series pattern and covers the traditions of Lenape culture, including an origin story, explanation of the relationship of the people to the land, their camps, villages, and daily life. Chapters cover dwellings, hunting, fishing, gardening, and gathering traditions, clothing and jewelry, handicrafts, and even a traditional recipe (Grape Dumplings). Discussion of beliefs, rituals, and ceremonies, including games and gambling has Bial's unmistakable stamp of his fascination with material culture and lifeways. Throughout the book, Bial's gift of photographing objects that speak for their makers is well utilized. Other illustrations from older sources (woodcuts, old photos) are also sprinkled throughout. As the author moves into the realm of modern Lenape life after their forced removal to Oklahoma, he covers many facts in an engaging voice. Bial's explication of the Delaware/Lenape loss of all tribal lands through thievery, trickery, and force is concise and even. Throughout the book, he uses the past tense when speaking of the old lifeways, knowing that the reader might otherwise assume the Lenape still live this way. The change to present tense in the New Ways chapter emphasizes that the Lenape/Delaware are trying hard to preserve what remains of their once thriving and rich culture in the forests and rich agricultural lands of the eastern seaboard states. Additional material includes a timeline, short biographies of notable people, glossary, bibliography (including both adult and children's books), contact information for various organizations and tribal agencies, websites, and an index. This title is highly recommended. 2006, Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark, \$23.95. Ages 9 to 16.

Horn Book (The Horn Book Guide, Fall 2006)

Each book in the series is as attractive as it is useful. The readable--and quietly respectful--texts cover a tribe's history, customs, and beliefs and discuss contemporary as well as ancient aspects of tribal life. The clean design includes plenty of white space and eye-catching photographs, maps, and prints. Directory, reading list, timeline, websites. Glos., ind. (Lifeways series). Category: Nonfiction-History. 2006, Benchmark, 128pp, 34.21. *Ages 9 to 12.* Rating: 3: Recommended, satisfactory in style, content, and/or illustration.

Series:

[Lifeways](#)

Subjects:

[Delaware Indians--History Juvenile literature.](#)
[Delaware Indians--Social life and customs Juvenile literature.](#)
[Delaware Indians.](#)
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[Bial, Raymond.](#)

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