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Merriam-Webster Children's Dictionary



Synopsis

This revised and updated dictionary for elementary school children includes more than 93 new entries, from broadband and graphic novel to MP3 and smartphone â " for a total of 35,000 words and phrases in all. Each entry is fully explained with its definition, usage, examples, and notes on spelling and punctuation. Word senses have also been refreshed to reflect modern usage, and maps and country statistics have been updated to include new countries, borders, flags, and cities. Throughout this new edition of Merriam-Webster Children's Dictionary, there is a fresh design with a different color-coded border for each letter of the alphabet, plus updated photographs and illustrations for a lively, accessible look that gives kids lots to look at as they build important research skills.

Book Information

Hardcover: 960 pages

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Shipping Weight: 6.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (447 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #574 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Reference > Dictionaries #4 inÂ Books > Reference > Dictionaries & Thesauruses

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

Comprehensive, well illustrated, and written to be understood by children aged 9 - 12. The definitions of most words searched have been easily understood by my nine year old son. Some definitions have necessitated my participation to provide a more simplified explanation. A further noted weakness of the dictionary is that a significant number of words fail to provide an example of its use in a sentence. A more consistent usage of this feature would have resulted in a 5 star rating. These faults, however, are minor and should not deter the reader from purchasing this dictionary. Some noteworthy unexpected strengths of the dictionary was the inclusion of a reference section

containing maps of the world and seven continents, illustrations of the flags of the world, a list of the 50 states and their capitals, and a listing of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the United States. A recommended companion to the dictionary is The American Heritage Children Thesaurus.

DK is the absolute best when it comes to non-fiction books for children. This illustrated dictionary is no exception. DK's style is clean, simple, and well-illustrated with color photos of the actual objects. Not only does this dictionary serve as a great reference tool, many children would enjoy sitting down and flipping through it just for fun. The illustrations will hold children's attention. If you don't already have a dictionary for your child, this is the one to get. And it is priced VERY reasonably. I work in a bookstore and recommend this one often.

I've been looking for a good dictionary for my 3rd grader, and have fallen in love with the DK Merriam Webster. Our experience with the Scholastic First Dictionary had been unfortunate -- four of the four words she did not understand in a recent spelling homework had failed to make it into that dictionary at all. In contrast, the DK Merriam-Webster has had a rich set of words that seem to meet her demands. I am in danger of ceasing to be her walking dictionary! Definitions are simple without being too watered down. For instance, we recently passed an opossum on the road. When she looked up opossum, there was a good picture, and a definition that it is "a common American animal related to the kangaroos that lives mostly in trees and is active at night." She was able to latch on to "related to the kangaroos" and "active at night" more easily than learning that it was a nocturnal marsupial. In the back of the dictionary are reference sections that are brief but informative. The layout of the dictionary is excellent, a good mix of pictures and text, and a nice color-coding scheme for alphabetical indexing. At the bottom of each page are examples of how to pronounce the phonetic symbols the book uses. The heft of the book is good for a kid -- my daughter has mentioned several times that it feels like a "real" book -- but not unmanageable. We'll have to see if the dictionary can truly take her through 8th grade or if she graduates to an adult dictionary before then. Either way, this book will have prepared her for a full adult dictionary very well.

I bought the second copy in 6 months a week ago and gave it to a friend as a gift to their children. And they really loved it. Its DK! Yes that matters. DK has mastered the art of making dictionaries. I have used DK Oxford American Illustrated dictionary. Dk made it so wonderful that when I sit with it I spend atleast 15 minutes. Wesbter knows how to convey the meaning of a word. So you combine the best of DK and Webster you get this masterpiece. The salesrank for this book is less than 2000

and that tells you how popular this book is. I would just go ahead and buy it if I am thinking of buying 'a' book for children. For children this book is a treasure from which they can learn new words seeing lots of pictures. If a kid wants to know what a fruit is he looks at fruit here he will also be able to learn all about fruits and types of fruits like dry fruits, etc. he turns the pages to fruit and finds the pictures of all kinds of fruits and that makes him recognise what a fruit is and what all fruits he eats. There are 4000 pictures. Other books boast of 2000 pictures but they aren't even close and all they got are bad and small pictures. All they carry is a small picture of an apple or something while explaining fruit. Also if you see letters XYZ alone you will see lot of pictures in this book. Its the best book rated in America and I have seen all children's dictionaries recently. I had an option of choosing between this one and World children's dictionary which costs less. But I realised that a bad dictionary is no better than not having one. So I chose this one and its a perfect gift for my cousins. So if you are looking for a book to gift some kids, grab this one.

This dictionary is very kid-friendly; colored markers on the pages make it easy to find the letter you want to look up and the pictures are extensive and intriguing. However, in using this dictionary with K-6th grade students, I have found that it is lacking many words above a 4th grade level, and I have had to revert back to the good ol' Oxford English Dictionary many a time. If you are looking for a dictionary for grades 1-4 this one is great.

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