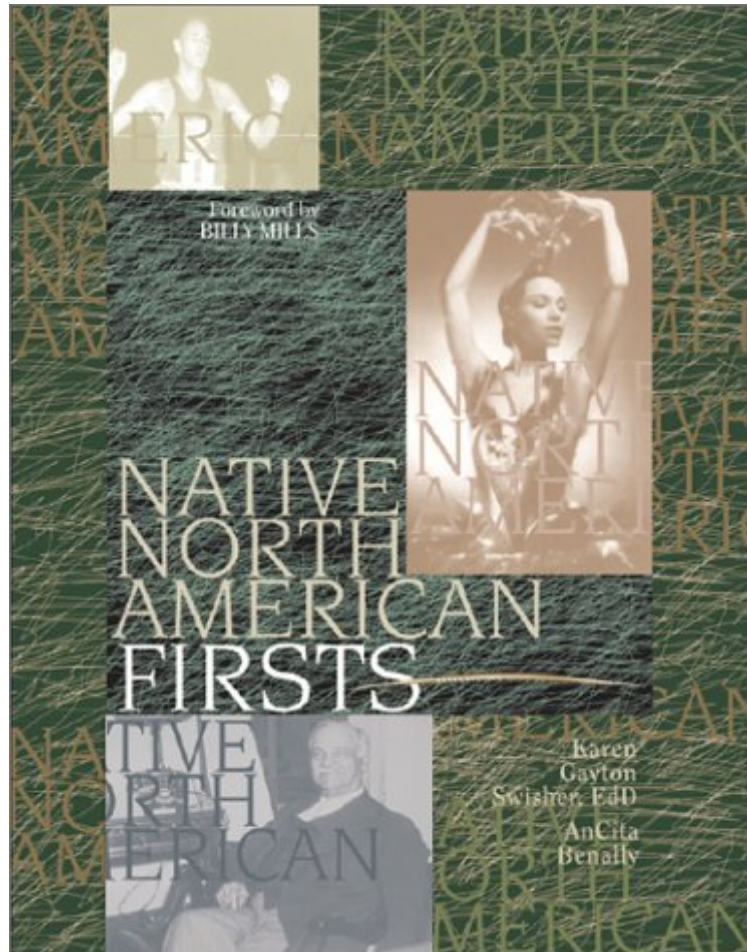


(Ebook pdf) Native North American Firsts

Native North American Firsts

Karen Gayton Swisher, Ancita Benally
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#5727472 in Books Visible Ink Press 1998-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 1.00 x 7.47 x 9.541, #File Name: 0787605182263 pages | File size: 46.Mb

Karen Gayton Swisher, Ancita Benally : Native North American Firsts before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Native North American Firsts:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book should be in every school library By Terri Jean I absolutely love this book! This is one of my favorite reference books and I use it all the time. My only complaint is that there's not a second book that profiles even more amazing indigenous people!

Book by Swisher, Karen Gayton, Benally, Ancita

From School Library Journal Grade 6 Up A This collection of Native accomplishments pulls together minibiographies (25-200 words) from many other reference works. Swisher and Benally are fully aware of the pitfalls of trying to define Native "firsts": in which culture? What constitutes a "first" for Native Americans? Is it even important? The

very concept of ranking achievements is irrelevant to many Native cultures, and self-aggrandizement and promotion is typically avoided, even today. However, the editors lay out their rationale in a thoughtful preface and explain how they chose the entries. The material is organized into 17 broad categories, some focusing on achievements in Native cultures (tribal government, language, Indian rights and activism), and some featuring achievements in non-Indian American institutions (the military, business and economics, literature). Within each section, events are organized chronologically (many to 1997) and sources are fully cited. Some Canadian and Central and South American firsts are included, but the focus is on the United States. Black-and-white photos illustrate some of the events, but add little information. Several chronologically oriented time lines, calendars, and indexes are included, but are not particularly helpful. A solid bibliography provides more resources and a thorough general index helps to locate specific people and tribes. A useful compilation of widely scattered material that is not essential if other reference books are available.

ALisa Mitten, University of Pittsburgh, PA
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From Booklist
This work lists "firsts" in Native North American history from 7500 B.C.E., when Native Americans produced potatoes, to the appointment of the first Native American archbishop by Pope John Paul II in 1997. According to the authors, both of whom are Native American educators at the high-school and university level, the intended purpose of the volume is to allow "Indian people to be the ones to define what being first means to us" and to "present a perspective that until recently has remained unrecognized." Entries range in length from short paragraphs to a page and a half and treat 17 categories, including arts, crafts, and design; language, law and the judiciary; and Indian rights and activism, in a chronological manner. Black-and-white illustrations enhance the straightforward, informative text. The table of contents, which provides easy access to the information in the book, is not the only entry point. A calendar of firsts, listing the most consequential events by month, is followed by a detailed time line. The book contains a thorough subject index as well as an index by year. The bibliography lists a plethora of sources from which information was drawn and to which the reader may resort for further information.

Gale's Native North American Almanac [RBB My 1 94] is slightly broader in scope, giving a comprehensive range of historical and current information on the life and culture of native peoples of the U.S. and Canada. Another Gale title, Chronology of Native North American History [RBB F 1 95], gives an overview of cultural and historical events from 50,000 B.C.E. through 1994. Neither of these works emphasizes the "firsts" aspect. Given this, Native North American Firsts, well composed and useful, fills a niche currently vacant in high-school, public, and academic libraries.