



People

Peter Spier

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With updated statistics and current geographical information, People by Peter Spier, first published in 1980, is a solid addition to any collection. Detailed facts and figures as well as a focus on the issue of diversity make this a great book for reference and a basis for discussion, both at home and in the classroom.

People Details

Date : Published April 1st 1988 by Doubleday Books for Young Readers (first published 1979)

ISBN : 9780385244695

Author : Peter Spier

Format : Paperback 48 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Nonfiction

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From Reader Review People for online ebook

Pamela says

There is such a variety of people in our world, and Peter Spier, the author/illustrator captures just about every aspect of their unique appearances, customs, habitats, activities, etc.

This book can be used in a classroom for 1st and 2nd graders to learn about the multitude of people and customs around the world and also how they have formed a melting pot in America.

Maggie says

Genre: Informational Nonfiction

Reading Level: Middle Grades (4-6)

This is another book I will have in my future classroom. This book would be one that I would have in any grade I will teach because the lesson is so valuable. I loved how it showed that there are so many differences between people, not just are skin color. I felt that everyone should read this book, because we are need to remember that there are so many differences between us all. I highly recommend this book to most everyone!

Charmaine says

People is a descriptive story written about people all over the world who are different from one another. The main character in this story is everyone. The author describes to the reader the different types of home lives that exist in the world. As a literacy, teacher I would use the text to teach students new vocabulary (ex. dialects, forbidden, and variants). In addition, People is also a great for students to learn how to communicate by using sign language. The illustrator Spier does an amazing job of capturing the authenticity of different people in the world performing everyday task. Spier implements his cultural background into the story by explaining the way America functions as a society. Students could use this book to see what the world would be like if everyone think and acted the same way.

KidsBooksWorthReading says

"Each and everyone of is different from all the others. Each one a unique individual in his or her own right." This is not your average "we are all different" type of book. It addresses more than just how we look different, but how we all feel differently, live differently, eat differently, play differently, celebrate differently, pray differently, speak and read and write differently, work differently, ranked differently, remembered differently. #kidsbooksworthreading #kidsbooks #kidsbook #picturebook #kidlit #childrensliterature #peterspier #doubledaybooks

Jestine Ware says

Why do people like this book so much? If you take a look at the illustrations, most cultures are portrayed as rudimentary, tribal, having exaggerated features, and the black braids look like medusa hair or spikes. Is this what you want to be showing your children? It takes extremes from each country and puts them into one place, but when talking about "ridiculousness" and showing culture, Western is the one that is the pinnacle of it. I'm also concerned that it begins with a white Adam and Eve, as if that is where all people stem from. Two white individuals fathered the entire world, according to the first image on the inside. Without context, this could be very damaging for children of color and misrepresentative of the world at large. What a child will remember about this book will be the images, not the message. Perhaps the author should have updated the images as well as the text.

Luisa Knight says

Spier shows how people around the globe and their differences in look, activities, jobs, religions, holidays, languages and more.

Ages: 5 - 10

Cleanliness: several pictures show women topless. Shows a fortune teller. An entire page shows various idols from the religions around the world. A page of holidays shows a witch on a broom

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Baby Bookworm says

This review was originally written for The Baby Bookworm. Visit us for new picture books reviews daily!

Hello, friends! In honor of Multicultural Children's Book Day, we read *People* by Peter Spier, a stunningly illustrated exploration of worldwide cultures.

There are a great many people that share our earth, billions to be exact. And those billions of people come in all shapes and sizes, colors, cultures, religions, and more. People eat different foods, they celebrate different holidays, they speak different languages. All of these things are beautiful, unique, and part of what makes our diverse, multicultural world wonderful.

Visually, this is a stunning book. Spier's detailed, intricate illustrations are endlessly fascinating, and you could spend an hour picking out the fine details included on every page. Plus, the core message, that diversity is one of the great and precious elements of our world, is important and treated with earnest reverence. But in a book published nearly 40 years ago, there are some cringe-worthy bits (outdated

statistics, Inuits referred to as “Eskimos,” a depiction of Black Peter, to name a few). It’s also an overtly honest book, discussing death, inequity of power, poverty, and other realities of life, a fact that can be viewed positively or negatively based on your preference. It even features a bit of nudity in a title page that depicts a tiny Adam and Eve (just their bare tushies, but still).

I’ve heard that in later editions, some updates to the text were made, but I cannot speak to them (we read the original 1980 copy). Overall, this is a gorgeous book that means well, but shows its age. JJ really enjoyed it, too, so I’m torn. I would say give this one a read first (the updated version would likely be preferable), and see if it’s right for your child. But for its art and overall message, we’ll call this Baby Bookworm approved (with an asterisk).

Be sure to check out The Baby Bookworm for more reviews!

Rawan says

An amazing book, that show us the difference between people around in the world.
A journey in traditions and differences around the world. :)

Shanna Gonzalez says

A beautiful, insightful look at cultural diversity across the world in people's appearance, habits, personalities, languages, religions, and other features, written for children but with an adult's keen perception of human nature. It is densely illustrated in Spier's inimitable style, which could provide hours of scrutiny and consideration by young readers. His incisive visual portrayal of the human experience gives far greater meaning to the descriptive text that accompanies the pictures. This is a wonderful celebration of the many lifestyles, cultures and personalities that represent humanity.

One potential concern for parents: the book opens with a back view of Adam and Eve, unclothed, in the Garden of Eden. There is also one illustration of a tribal woman with no upper body covering. Two strategically placed stickers (or a judicious sharpie) could address these.

Lydia says

Reminded of this book by my avid-reader sister, Peter Spier's writing and illustrations remind us that being unique is what makes us beautiful.

Alexis Levine says

While I love this book and think it's great for discussing cultural diversities in the world and around us I do not think it would be good for the classroom because it has a picture of Adam and Eve not dressed in the

Garden of Eden. If I were to read this to students though, I would discuss differences among people, both personal and outside appearances. We could make a graph of all the students with different color hair and eyes in the class to introduce graphing in a math lesson.

Krysta McFarland says

This informational book that perfect for grades 1-3 is an AMAZING book if you need one for a diverse class. This book goes into detail not only on different colors of people and where they are from but also on every little detail of what makes each person different than the rest. I love the fact that this book emphasizes that it is alright to be different and that different does not mean bad. This book honestly is one that I would love to have in my classroom no matter what type of class I have because it stresses that even if we all look alike, there are other people that are not exactly like we are.

Ebookwormy1 says

A brilliant idea for it's time, this book is distressingly out of date. One could excuse the use of drawings (Spier's specialty) instead of photographs, but the factual information is problematic. The first page reads: "We all know there are lots and lots of people in the world-and many millions more each year. There are over 4,000,000,000 human beings on earth, and if it takes you an hour to read this book, there will be 4,000 more! By the year 2000, there will be 6,000,000,000 people on earth. If we all joined hands, the line would be 3,805,871 miles long and would stretch 153 times around the equator. Or sixteen times the distance to the moon. More than 4,000,000,000 people... and no two of them alike! Each and every one of us different from all the others. Each one a unique individuals in his or her own right."

It's a lovely concept really, but considering we are over a decade PAST 2000, one longs for an updated version.

If I was the publisher, two alternatives present themselves. For purists, why not issue an anniversary edition with the original drawings and text intact, but the statistics updated? Alternatively, the publisher could find a photojournalist, who has traveled the world and has these images in his stock, to provide the visuals for a new edition. Peter Spier's original text with the updated statistics would introduce this wonderful work to a whole new generation while embracing the visual luxury the upcoming generation is experiencing.

•Karen• says

We still own the battered beaten-up copy of this homage to humanity that our two daughters returned to so often that it needed patching up with a judicious amount of sticky tape. A wholehearted celebration of diversity, it devotes pages to appearance, homes, food, clothes, pastimes, jobs, pets, feasts and holidays, beliefs, language, a little history, and most of all, throughout it all, to 'People everywhere. And all different.'

It was first published in 1981, and now that I took it out again to use as a language teaching tool, I had to update the population figures at the beginning: it predicts that there will be 6 billion on the planet by the year 2000, so I updated the forecast to 8 billion by 2020.

It's incredibly useful as a teaching aid; vocabulary to do with appearance, to describe hair and figure, to talk about games we play, animals we keep - or would like to! The only trouble is that there is too much in there for a learner - my young student who comes just wants to look at the wonderful illustrations. So we have these little battles where I'm trying to concentrate on her learning useful words while she wants to know what that is? 'It's a Barrel Vaulted Stone House from Turkey' I think that belongs in the category 'non-essential vocabulary'.

Jennie Park says

I LOVE, LOVE, LOVE this book. It is about embracing one anothers' differences and explaining how people are similar and different in many different ways. I love the illustrations and examples of the different cultures and variety of people the book displays. This book would be great for any grade level (probably not pre-kindergarten though because it may be a little too advanced but maybe not depending on your students)

Alexis Steven says

Es muy extraño: algunas personas odian a otras porque no son como ellas. Porque son diferentes.

Un libro que representa de forma rápida y directa lo importante que es ver la vida desde diferentes perspectivas. Lo que es malo para uno puede ser bueno para otros, y viceversa. Siete mil millones de seres humanos, ¿por qué preocuparnos por querer ser iguales? la vida es mejor siendo únicos.

Emma says

Oh so sadly dated. It has a veneer of globalist humanism but in fact it's quite eurocentric exoticist. Also I don't think it was particularly well-researched. In a part of different homes of the world, alongside, like Adobe houses or whatever, it shows an Aboriginal dwelling that's basically a corrugated iron shanty - nothing traditional about that, it's simply poverty! This is just a very weird book with some kind of off attitudes embedded in it. Apparently some people work very hard but some are quite lazy - things like that. Yikes. Also, I don't actually like his illustrations that much - they're a bit broad. Bummer, cause I'd really like a bit more of a 'right on' version of this. Drawn by someone else.

E says

I risk the banality of superlative in saying this is the ultimate book on promoting internationality, but I've yet to see its equal. It tackles every possible subject under the vast category of cultural diversity - differences in

physical appearances, clothes, food, holidays, games, homes, pets, beauty standards, beliefs, alphabets, jobs, tastes in art, etc. It also gives both xenophobia and the homogeneous construct their due beatings. (Domestic issues such as differences in gender, sexuality, and different sorts of families are left alone and that's probably just as well since those give rise to more microcosmic discussions.)

Every child I have read this book to has enjoyed it thoroughly. Some have been upset by the images of elephants and monkeys being eaten, and a two-year-old could not stop laughing at the Polynesian tribal dress, but sparking a helpful dialogue on such topics is half the point and fun. No child is born a racist, but the world certainly bombards them with (often false) concepts of homogeneity and xenophobia that must be combated.

My only complaint with the book is that on the title page are Adam and Eve (both portrayed as white) in the Garden of Eden. To use such an image as a prelude hardly seems harmonious with the central concept of cultures being different and equal. I would personally translate it to my own kids as an allusion to simply one of the millions of stories about where humans come from, but I could understand parents of another religion or culture being rather irritated.

That image aside, this book is a necessity for any progressive family.

Cheri says

I actually didn't read this book, but saw a video of children reading it. I think it was even more meaningful to me that way. :)

Krista says

I got this book for Christmas when I was four years old. It was so influential in helping me learn about other cultures and the importance of being open-minded. At first, I thought a lot of the people in the book were funny because they were different than me. I laughed at the idea of sun worshippers, I laughed at the natives with bones through their noses, and thought it was stupid that some people wouldn't eat "normal" foods like pig and fish. But as I got older, I realized that having this book around had prepared me for cultural differences. It should be an important addition to every kid's library.
