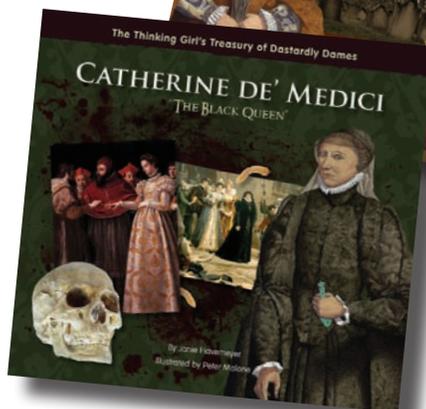
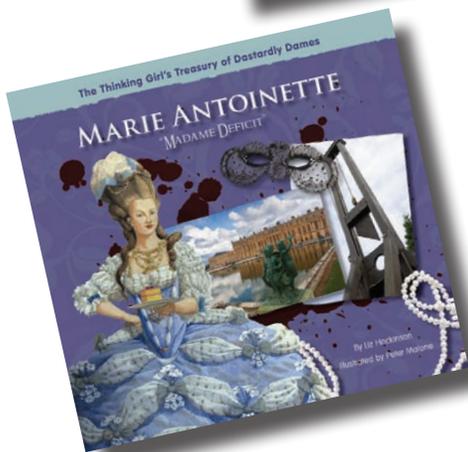
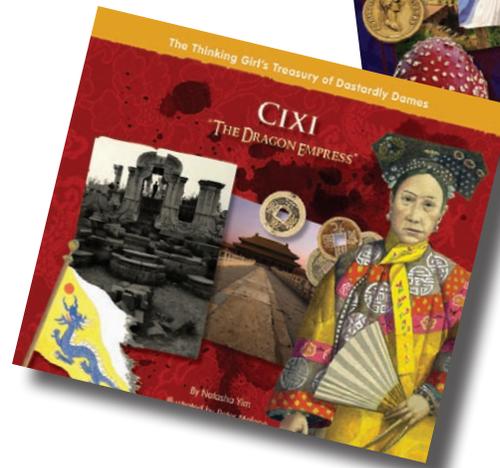
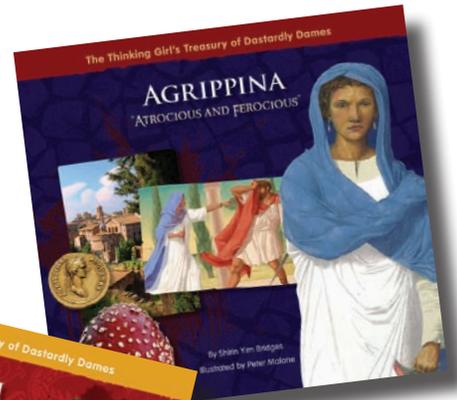
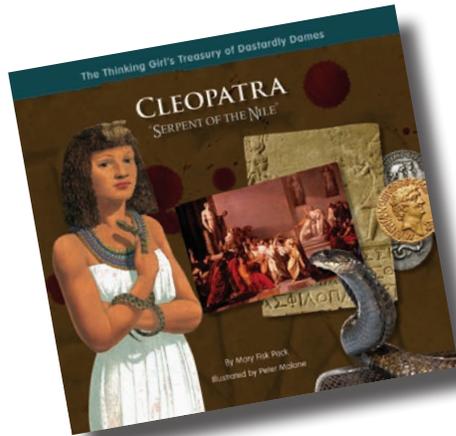


Teacher's Resource



Series includes:

Cleopatra "Serpent of the Nile," 69 BC

Agrippina "Atrocious and Ferocious," 15 AD

Mary Tudor "Bloody Mary," 1516 AD

Catherine de' Medici "The Black Queen," 1519 AD

Marie Antoinette "Madame Deficit," 1755 AD

Cixi "The Dragon Empress," 1835 AD



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The Thinking Girl's Treasury of Dastardly Dames

Historical and Social Sciences Analysis Skills, Grades 6-8, Supported by the Series

Source: History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools, Kindergarten to Grade Twelve, Adopted by the California State Board of Education, October 1998.

Chronological and Spatial Thinking

1. Students explain how major events are related to one another in time.
2. Students construct various timelines of key events, people, and periods of the historical era they are studying.
3. Students use a variety of maps and documents to identify physical and cultural features of neighborhoods, cities, states, and countries and to explain the historical migration of people, expansion and disintegration of empires, and the growth of economic systems.

Research, Evidence, and Point of View

1. Students frame questions that can be answered by historical study and research.
2. Students distinguish fact from opinion in historical narratives and stories.
3. Students distinguish relevant from irrelevant information, essential from incidental information, and verifiable from unverifiable information in historical narratives and stories.
4. Students assess the credibility of primary and secondary sources and draw sound conclusions from them.
5. Students detect the different historical points of view on historical events and determine the context in which the historical statements were made (the questions asked, sources used, author's perspectives).

Historical Interpretation

1. Students explain the central issues and problems from the past, placing people and events in a matrix of time and place.
2. Students understand and distinguish cause, effect, sequence, and correlation in historical events, including the long- and short-term causal relations.
3. Students explain the sources of historical continuity and how the combination of ideas and events explains the emergence of new patterns.
4. Students recognize the role of chance, oversight, and error in history.
5. Students recognize that interpretations of history are subject to change as new information is uncovered.
6. Students interpret basic indicators of economic performance and conduct cost-benefit analyses of economic and political issues.



Extension Activities for All Six Books

Activities can be used with any of the books in the series, or all six at the same time!

Reading Activities

Study Guide

Use the study guide provided with any of the books in the series. All of your students can be working on the same book, or they can each be reading a different book in the series.

Comparison Study of Two Women

Have students read two of the books in the series and complete a Venn diagram of the main characteristics of the two women. Some questions to pose to the class might be: What traits did these two women have in common? What were the differences between them? How did each rise to power? How wide was their scope of power? What was expected of women in those times?

Writing Activities

A Different Mirror

Have students choose one of the Dastardly Dames and rewrite her story from a different point of view. They might choose to present Cleopatra as a champion of Egyptian freedom...Agrippina as a protective mother whose only concern was her son. Discuss how the same historical data can be retold as a different narrative by changing emphasis and points of view.



Social Studies Activities

Map It!

Give each student a blank world map. In one color, ask them to shade in and label the empire/kingdom/area where the story they are reading takes place. In another color, draw and label modern day countries and boundaries. Next, have student locate and record major geographic features, such as mountains, rivers, oceans, and seas. Finally, they should identify the modern day capital cities, as well as other major cities.

Timeline

Use the activity sheet to have students construct a timeline for the main character's lifetime. Depending on the dame, students may not be able to include exact dates on the timeline. Instead, emphasize the listing of major life events in chronological order. In addition, ask them to include on their timeline events happening in other parts of the world. Students may want to illustrate their timeline.

Cause and Effect

Use the activity sheet to determine the causes of major events in the dame's life. Emphasize to students that there usually is more than one reason behind events in history. Use the book for research, as well as other sources about the history of the time.

Expert Research Groups

Split students into groups of three or four. Assign each group one of the books in the series. Each group will become experts on the dame of their book, as well as the time period in which she lived. Some questions to research: What were some of the central issues and problems from that era in history? Who were important leaders and people of that time? What was happening in other parts of the world? How did the dame rise to power? How were women treated or regarded during that time?

Then ask groups to create a final project or presentation to teach the class about their dame and her time period in history. Projects might include making a poster, creating a PowerPoint presentation, writing a play, or developing brochures to advertise that time in history. Encourage students to dress up in the traditional clothes of the era during their presentation.

Social Studies Activities, Continued

Analyzing the Text

The books in this series might be categorized as historical narrative. In order to tell a story about a real person in history the authors took some liberties to round out the person and to make her story come alive. The author may have added details that can't be verified, but instead are used to create a picture of a real human in history that readers can relate to.

Students should learn to distinguish between verifiable and unverifiable information and understand the author's purpose in using both types of information. After reading one of the books, ask students to create two columns in their notebooks. Label one column "verifiable facts," and the other column "unverifiable information." Ask students to analyze the text, find examples from the book, and cite them in their notebooks. Point out that, even in one sentence, there may be examples of both types of information.

For example, from Agrippina "Atrocious and Ferocious":

[From her villa] Agrippina watches the dust rise over the road. She can hear the clomp-clomp of hob-nailed boots. She narrowly escaped a near drowning only hours earlier. She'd been returning by boat after dining with Nero when something had gone wrong... The sailors had tried to kill her, but she had managed to swim back to shore. Now, she knows, they are coming to finish their work. And she knows it is her own son who has sent them.

VERIFIABLE: Agrippina survived a near drowning after dining with Nero and swam back to shore. The sailors who had tried to kill her followed Agrippina to her villa in order to launch a second attack.

UNVERIFIABLE: Agrippina watched the dust rise over the road as the sailors approached. She could hear their hob-nailed boots.

Social Studies Activities, Continued

Fashion Show

Each book includes a section about the clothing of the era. Ask students to organize a historical fashion show. Assign each group a different dame. Starting with the information presented in the book, they should research the fashions from that time in history and that part of the world.

At the start of this project pose some questions to the class: What did women wear? What did men wear? How differently would the ruling class have dressed than the rest of society? How did the geography and climate affect clothing choices? What materials were used for clothing?

During the fashion show, while students model their clothes, have a moderator explain what the model is wearing and the history behind the outfit.

A Banquet Fit for a Queen

Invite students to create a meal or dish from the book they are reading. Each woman's diet was dependant on the geography of the land, so ask students to present to the class a poster of the physical features, natural resources and climate of the dame's kingdom.

Some questions to ask: What foods did she eat? How would it have been different if she didn't live in wealth? What were staples of the time? What were considered delicacies? How was her diet similar and different to what is eaten in that part of the world today? How did trade with other countries affect her diet?



The Thinking Girl's Treasury of Dastardly Dames

Study Guide

NAME _____ BOOK _____

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper in complete sentences:

1. Sketch a map of where the dame lived. Include major geographic features. Label the countries or kingdoms that bordered her land.
2. Describe the historical time period in which the dame lived.
3. List ten important facts about the dame.
4. What character traits would you use to describe this dame? Why? Use examples from the book to support your answer.
5. Discuss her relationship with men. What was expected of her? Did she meet these expectations? How was she different? Use examples from the book to support your answer.
6. Explain how the dame rose to power. What obstacles did she face? How did she overcome them?
7. Choose an action of the dame. Do you agree with what she did? What were the consequences of the action?
8. If you were able to interview the dame, but could only ask her five questions, what would they be? Why?
9. What is your opinion of the dame? Explain with details from the book.
10. Summarize the dame's story. Explain what happened in her life in the same way you would tell a friend about someone you had just met.

The Thinking Girl's Treasury of Dastardly Dames

Timeline Activity Sheet

NAME _____ BOOK _____

Directions:

1. List ten major experiences in the dame's life.

2. Research the historical era in which she lived. Find four key events that happened during her lifetime. These could include things that happened in her country or throughout the world.

3. Who were other important historical people throughout the world during that period?
4. On a separate piece of paper, create a timeline showing the fourteen events you've identified.

The Thinking Girl's Treasury of Dastardly Dames

Cause and Effect Activity Sheet

NAME _____ BOOK _____

Cause and effect is a tricky thing in history. Sometimes there is one main cause for an event, but more often there are many causes behind why something happened.

Directions:

List ten events from the dame's life (the effects). Determine the cause of each effect.

	CAUSE(S)	EFFECT
Event #1		
Event #2		
Event #3		
Event #4		
Event #5		
Event #6		
Event #7		
Event #8		
Event #9		
Event #10		