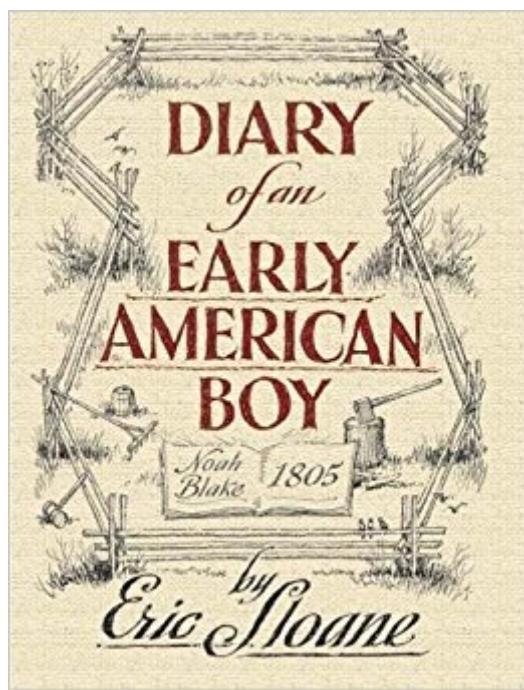


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Diary Of An Early American Boy: Noah Blake 1805 (Dover Books On Americana)



Synopsis

For his fifteenth birthday in 1805, young Noah Blake's parents gave him a little leatherbound diary in which he recorded the various activities on his father's farm. This reprint of an actual early nineteenth-century book provides today's readers with a delightful rarity — a view of bygone days through the eyes of a young boy. Eric Sloane has taken the notebook with its brief comments and expanded the daily entries with explanatory narrative and 72 of his own remarkable drawings. Verbal and graphic sketches detail the construction of an entire backwoods farm as well as such common tasks as making nails, building a bridge, splitting shingles, spring plowing, and maple-sugaring. The result is "an extraordinary glimpse into everyday Early American rural life . . . [that] will delight readers of all ages." — History in Review.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The books of Eric Sloane celebrate the time-honored traditions of early America and remind us of the ties that forever bind us to them. A prolific artist, Sloane created nearly 15,000 paintings and drawings over his lifetime, many of which enhance his delightful books of bygone days.

Like the previous reviewer, this book was not what I was expecting. Thinking that most teenage boys hundreds of years ago are just like teenage boys today, I was very surprised to find a published diary of a kid who was willing to write down his thoughts on life. With many entries consisting entirely of one or two words like "Plowed today." and "Do." (ditto), this book does little to

offer the reader insight into the thoughts of this boy. The diary portion of the book is disappointing, and is used as a jumping off point for the author to explain in words and pictures about the technology of the early 19th century. The explanations are fascinating, the technology amazing. Anyone who has ever thought about how the pyramids could have been built by thousands of slaves should take a gander at how a covered bridge (that could hold the weight of oxen and a cart and its load and driver) was constructed by a few neighborhood farmers. The illustrations are the backbone of this book and they are excellent. I wish the author would strike a deal with the publishers of Laura Ingalls Wilder's "Little House" series to draw and explain the machinery described in those books. I would recommend this book as a gift for anyone, kid or adult, who is interested in architecture or engineering, or who loves history.

Diary of an Early American Boy is a very informative book. It is listed for use with Sonlight Curriculum's 4th Grade Science program. My 4th grader had trouble tolerating it. (Each child is different.) For my next child, I waited and will do this "4th Grade Science" program with him in his 5th grade year. I think it will be a good fit. The book is best read aloud to this age level (10-11 years old), and in small increments. It is rich with content, and the illustrations are excellent. It is a sit together and savor the pictures kind of book, not a book to rush through. It is a go outside together and try to recreate the described invention kind of book. It is not to be rushed through, that would gain you little. Buy, savor, but if you are in a hurry, don't bother. I don't think most kids will pick this book up on their own without prompting. The excellent illustrations are, nevertheless, black and white (or brown and white), and many children aren't drawn to these less stunning types of art. Hope that helps!

Timeless illustrations.

Decent book

I was looking at message boards on how to build a corduroy bridge and someone mentioned this book so I thought I'd check it out. Am SO glad I did. Didn't help me with my bridge necessarily, but it sure was an interesting look at how people lived in early 1800! If you enjoy reading/learning about living off the land, this is definitely a book you should check out!

This is a classic, with amazing illustrations of the tools and buildings of the past. It's especially

inspiring for young folks who are interested in how things work and how to make them. And of course, it's based on a young boy's diary. We use it in our project-based alternative education program, to help bring history alive. Several of my colleagues, however, remember it as a special book from their youth.

I am an early American history buff. This little book is loaded with wonderful examples and descriptions of life on a growing farm in 1805. The illustrations are worthy to be studied. Mr. Sloane certainly had a gift for this genre. I wish I had discovered this book and this author earlier. The story line follows the development of the mill house, home, and farm in such a way as to be a handy reference. I highly recommend this book for anyone of any age who would like to learn about or teach others how folks lived two hundred years ago. I consider this little book a jewel of my history book collection and look forward to reading it to my grandchildren. HDG

I checked out this book from the library when I was a kid (in the early 60s) and have been looking for it ever since. It's even better now, since I have some perspective about things in general. The actual diary is sweet, even if it describes everyday life in 1805 in a very terse way. It's a diary, after all, and I doubt Noah ever thought anyone was going to publish it so many years later. What Eric Sloan has done with the illustrations is wonderful. His drawings and comments round out the diary, giving the reader an honest picture of life in those times, what a homestead such as Noah's would have looked like, and how things were made. The detail, from making a rocking chair to building a covered bridge, probably provides knowledge adequate to replicate those things today.

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