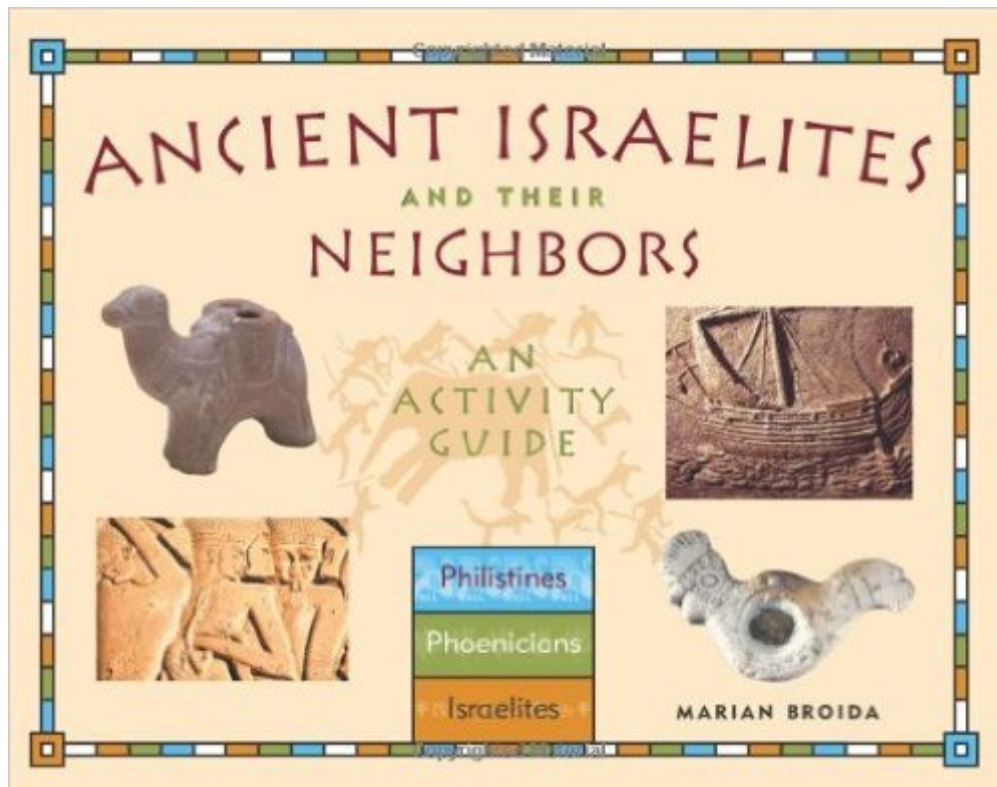


The book was found

# Ancient Israelites And Their Neighbors: An Activity Guide



## Synopsis

Children can try their hand at re-creating ancient Israelite culture along with the cultures of their neighbors, the Philistines and Phoenicians; in a way that will provide perspective on current events. The book covers a key period from the Israelites' settlement in Canaan in 1200 B.C.E. to their return from exile in Babylonia in 538 B.C.E. This part of the Middle East; no larger than modern-day Michigan; was the birthplace of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. More than 35 projects include stomping grapes into juice, building a model Phoenician trading ship, making a Philistine headdress, and writing on a broken clay pot. Israelites', Phoenicians', and Philistines' writing and languages, the way they built their homes, the food they ate, the clothes they wore, and the work they did, and of course, their many interesting stories, are all explored.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 9 and up

Grade Level: 4 and up

## Customer Reviews

I debated about whether to buy this book for a Christian homeschooling unit on ancient Israel. It is one of the only in-print books that talks about the Philistines and Phoenicians, so it is worth the purchase for just that. However, I did not appreciate most of the activities in this book, and it is nowhere near as fun as the Ancient Egyptians book from the same author. The text is much harder to read... upper elementary at least. The photos are black and white and the activity boxes are smaller and not as lively. The font is rather small too. It's informative with more pages of solid reading. More importantly, the activities are not as numerous or as neat. Probably because

information on the Philistines and Phoenicians is not nearly as plentiful as Egyptians or Mesopotamians. There were few activities, really, and some of them were stretching it a little. Writing on a smashed pot to copy Israelites writing on broken clay? Tying a headscarf around your head as a distinctive activity for Phoenicians? Designing a Greek hearth room for the Philistines? I don't know. I guess I just had higher expectations. The main value of this book is the reference material. Again, it is one of the only books out there with vital information about these biblical cultures. It is great as a reference resource. Includes a lot of photos of real artifacts. But it is not a little kid-friendly activity book. I wouldn't recommend it for kids under third grade, and maybe fifth grade ideally.

What a pleasant surprise! This book could be used for religious OR public school. It not only gives insights as to how people lived in ancient times, but helps students recreate aspects of it so that they can relate it to their lives of today. The book explains how life was, and then allows students to create food, clothing and housing models so that they can see how those ancient cultures influenced our culture today.

When I first saw this book, I must admit that I was rather dubious. After all, most children's books are pretty basic, consisting mostly of lots of pretty pictures and very little useful text. This book, on the other hand, is an excellent resource on three people from the ancient Middle East – the Israelites, the Philistines, and the Phoenicians. Each of the three chapters of this book discuss what is known of these peoples from archaeological sources, including such details as architecture, clothing, language and writing, work, food, and religion. Along the way, the reader is treated to many interesting sidebars and special activities. This is a very interesting book, one that anyone young or old will find very informative. If you are interested in the peoples of ancient Palestine, then I highly recommend that you get this exciting book!

I have found this book to be informative and useful. It is written from a "non-religious" perspective. The content information is more suitable for upper elementary (complex sentences and higher vocabulary), but the pictures and activities would interest those in the lower grades. We have not yet done any of the activities, but I've been impressed as I read through them. Most of them are practical, easy, and seem worth the time to do.

Earlier this year, I read the book "The Great Sea" by David Abulafia. The Great Sea: A Human

History of the Mediterranean. It was very useful for getting a feel for the human history of the Mediterranean. This book focused on the Philistines, Phoenicians, and Israelites and offered projects to look at the technology, building styles, trade goods, and interactions among these three groups. Great projects -- very doable by kids with NORMAL MATERIALS -- clay, shoe boxes, milk jugs, paper, string. Handy to have some leather cord. We did a number of these projects while we studied Ancient Israel.

The item was as described. The price was great. It arrived shortly. A very good ancient Israelites resource.

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