

You Are History: From the Alarm Clock to the Toilet, the Amazing History of the Things You Use Every Day

AUTHOR

GREG JENNER

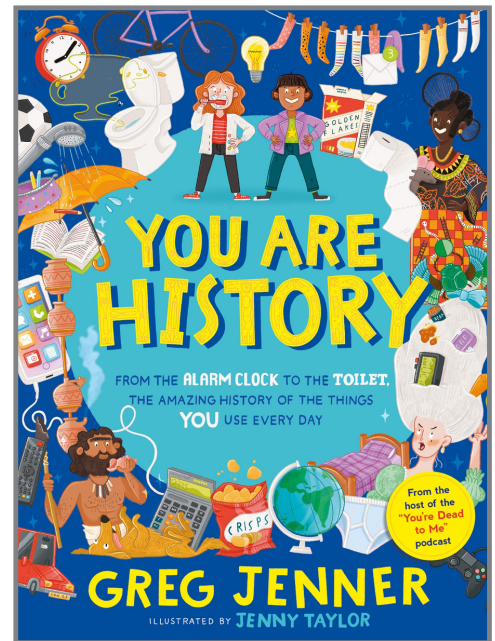
ILLUSTRATOR

JENNY TAYLOR

SCIS: 5425685

ISBN: 9781406395679

RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid to Upper Primary



SYNOPSIS

Thought history was only in museums? Think again!

Join Greg Jenner as he takes you on a trip through the amazing history hidden in the things you use every day.

Did you know that the first TV was made out of biscuit tins and knitting needles? Or that the humble paperclip helped lead an anti-war movement? Or that a few hundred years ago it was fashionable to style your hair with cat poo?!

Find out the delightful, daft and downright deadly history of your everyday life that your teachers won't tell you about.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Greg Jenner is an historian, author and podcast host, specialising in communicating history through popular culture. He is best-known for his educational comedy podcast for the BBC, *You're Dead to Me*, which has had over 27 million downloads. His *Homeschool History* radio series won him an army of new fans when it launched on BBC Radio 4 during the COVID pandemic. As historical consultant to the BAFTA award-winning CBBC comedy series *Horrible Histories*, Greg ensured the factual accuracy of hundreds of side-splitting sketches. He's published several books for adults, but *You Are History* is his first for children. You can find more about Greg at www.gregjenner.com or on twitter @greg_jenner.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Jenny Taylor is an illustrator and graphic designer originally from Scotland, but now living in Preston, England. She has been drawing stories since 1997, when she first discovered what pencils and paints could really do. When not drawing, Jenny enjoys long walks in the shade with her ginger companion, 'attempting' new and complicated recipes or watching her favourite animated movies. Her debut book was *The Alien in the Jam Factory*. You can find more of Jenny's work at www.jennytaylor.com and on Instagram @jennytaylor draws.

STUDY NOTES

- Before reading, view the cover and title of the book and identify the following:
 - The title of the book
 - The author (Discuss the role of the author.)
 - The publisher (Discuss the role of the publisher.)
 - The blurb.
- Based on the cover, what do you think this book is about?

- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attention and give them some idea of what the book is about.
- From the cover, what information do you think will be covered in this book? What type of book is this and where would you expect to find it in your library?
- Is this book fiction or nonfiction? How can you tell?
- In groups find examples of the language of opinion/feeling and factual reporting. What is the purpose of each type of language?
- Nonfiction can be presented in many different ways. How does the layout of this particular book affect the readability of the text? Consider the illustrations and headings.
- Design a page of nonfiction information. How will you keep your audience interested and engaged?
- Find the following sections in the book and explain their purpose. In what kind of books might you find these sections?
 - Contents
 - Timeline
 - Index.
- What is the purpose of an index? Find a topic that interest you in the index and use it to locate it in the book.
- Who is the audience for this book? What makes you think that? Who do you think might enjoy this book other than the intended audience?
- Form small groups and pick your favourite topic from the book. Hold a discussion on the following:
 - What have you learnt?
 - What did you like most about how the author presented the information?
 - How did the illustrations help your engagement with the topic?
- Do you use any of the items in the book? If so, which ones? Did the information accompanying them surprise you?
 - Find an everyday item that isn't included in the book and research its history then present your findings to the class.