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Britannica Student Encyclopedia. 16v. 2007. Encyclopaedia Britannica, \$499 (9781593393007).

A welcome new entry in the student encyclopedia market, *Britannica Student Encyclopedia (BSE)* is designed to capture the interest of young information seekers and browsers in grades 3–7. *BSE* features a striking cover design in bold colors with an eye-catching, single-image spinescape. Volumes may contain information for more than one letter of the alphabet but do not split letters between volumes. A final volume set index is also included.

Each of the encyclopedia volumes begins with a highlighted box of interesting facts one can learn more about within the volume. (Volumes containing more than one letter have these highlighted boxes at the beginning of each letter.) These age-appropriate fun facts include, for example, “Almonds are commonly called nuts, but they are actually seeds.” Most articles range in length from several paragraphs to several pages. Articles on continents, countries of the world, U.S. states, and Canadian provinces are one to five pages and color-coded. These entries contain highlighted fact boxes, color maps, and color images of the flag. Many also contain a time line. Entries on U.S. presidents all contain a time line as well as information on early life, political career, presidency, and retirement and death (if appropriate). Every world capital also merits an entry, which includes historical information, a map, and population statistics.

All entries include “More to Explore,” a clever title for *see also* references that direct young researchers to further information within the set. “Did You Know?” boxes are designed as easels and appear throughout the set, offering interesting and fun facts. *BSE* contains numerous illustrations, most of which are in color. The final volume is a comprehensive set index.

This encyclopedia is remarkably up-to-date, with entries on the new countries of Serbia and Montenegro as well as noting the new status of Pluto. However, this is not the source to consult for tables such as current Nobel Prize or World Series winners or track-and-field record holders.

BSE seems to have a clear grasp of the interests of the target audience. Entries can be found on a variety of popular topics, such as *Armstrong, Lance; Beckham, David; Bell, Cool Papa; Rowling, J. K.;* and *Pirates*. This attractive and engaging set is a delightful entry into the student-encyclopedia market and a much-needed

addition for the age group. A step up from the *Heinemann First Encyclopedia*, which targets grades K–2, *BSE* is accessible, appealing, and highly browsable. It provides just the right amount of information without overwhelming young researchers and would also work well for older ESL/ELL students or middle-school students reading below grade level.