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Compton's by Britannica

Compton's by Britannica. 26v. 2007. Encyclopaedia Britannica, \$699 (9781 593392987).

Intended for grades 5-12, Compton's delivers a new cover and single-image spine design for 2007. . . . Compton's is designed to provide basic information on a variety of school-related topics while inviting advanced students to research in depth. The 2007 set contains 30 new articles, including entries for Pope Benedict XVI, Barack Obama, Chief Justice John Roberts, and Olympian Shani Davis. Unfortunately, many of these new articles are actually found in the Fact Index volume instead of the main encyclopedia.

Compton's has more than 37,000 articles and approximately 23,000 illustrations, 71 percent of which are in full color. Around 50 articles were rewritten or revised, including Australia, Astronomy, Baseball, Food and nutrition, United Nations, and Weather. Ten new locator maps were added, and 10 maps were changed, many related to Australia, its states, and major cities. There are approximately 150 new illustrations. . . . A one-volume "New Views of the Solar System," which "examines scientists' changing perspective on the solar system" and includes articles on Pluto, the eight chief planets, and the dwarf planets, is supposed to accompany each Compton's set but was not seen for this review.

The concluding Fact Index contains not only the set index but tables, brief articles, and many further-reading resources. A "How to use the Fact-Index" states that this volume should be the first stop for information, and in fact many of the biographies and numerous tables displayed here are useful and more current than the information included in the regular articles. . . .