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Eyewitness Guides. Islam.

AnnMarie Hamar

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Wilkinson, Philip. *Eyewitness Guides. Islam*. Illustrated by NA. Dorling Kindersley, 2002. ISBN 0-7894-8870-1. \$15.99. 64 pp.

Reviewer: AnnMarie Hamar

Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Non-fiction;

Subject: Islam—Juvenile literature; The Middle East—Juvenile literature; Books—Reviews;

This outstanding introduction to Islam covers a variety of topics from the prophet Muhammad to Islamic architecture, scholarship, and music. The most detailed discussion is devoted to the Five Pillars, the basic tenets of Islam. Other topics include the role of the mosque in an Islamic community, education, food, and the Crusades. The text also covers Islam's influence in Spain, Northern Africa, and Asia.

The book follows the standard Eyewitness Guide format of plentiful crisp color photographs and maps with accompanying captions. The text is well-written and easy to follow. The author has been careful to avoid discussion of controversial topics such as Islamic extremist groups. He also does not really discuss the role of women in Islam, although he briefly mentions that in some societies they are well educated and may hold prominent positions in public life. Overall the book is a timely and superb addition to the Eyewitness Guides series.