



# **City: A Story of Roman Planning and Construction**

*David Macaulay*

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Text and black and white illustrations show how the Romans planned and constructed their cities for the people who lived within them.

### **City: A Story of Roman Planning and Construction Details**

Date : Published October 24th 1983 by HMH Books for Young Readers (first published 1974)

ISBN : 9780395349229

Author : David Macaulay

Format : Paperback 112 pages

Genre : History, Architecture, Nonfiction, Childrens, Picture Books, Art



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## **From Reader Review City: A Story of Roman Planning and Construction for online ebook**

### **Raiann says**

Bonus points for the illustrations, which are superb. But not a very exciting book.

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### **Rodrigo Ogridog says**

Sehr einfach geschrieben und enthält doch Informationen, die man kaum woanders in der anschaulichkeit und Genauigkeit erhält.

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### **Seth Holler says**

Fantastic homeschool book.

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### **Rebecca McKinnon says**

It's amazing to see how well-thought-out this city was. I especially loved how they figured the allowed building height--no more than twice as high as the width of the street it was built on so the streets weren't always in shadow.

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### **Diane says**

I found this series of books while I was looking for something else, and what a treasure! Macaulay is a marvelous illustrator and I liked seeing all of the planning and design that went into an ancient Roman city. Even though they are children's books, I would recommend them to adults who like history and architecture.

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### **Zach says**

I now know how to build a Roman city.

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### **JennanneJ says**

Lots of illustrations in this quick read. Clearly shows, through the building of a fictional Roman city, Roman city planning and style of construction. Interesting overview of Roman construction. I believe this is a

children's book, but interesting read also for adults. I read before a trip to Rome!

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### **Jason says**

David Macaulay's *Underground* was a wonderful book, but his *City* tops it by showing the same sorts of infrastructural accomplishments (e.g., public water works, plumbing, sewers, etc.) only here set in *classical antiquity*! Macauley's masterful illustrations and clear text provide ample evidence of the "civilizing" (literally, "urbanizing") skills and talents of the Roman people whose arts, according to the *Aeneid*, "are to be these:"

To pacify, to impose the rule of law,  
To spare the conquered, battle down the proud. (6.1151-1154)

For, as Macaulay notes in his introduction (p.5), "[t]he Romans knew that well planned cities did more to maintain peace and security than twice the number of military camps." Fascinating stuff here, and not just for kids!

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### **Roslyn says**

SO interesting. The Romans were really organized and on top of their city planning. My five year old loved this book too :)

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### **Matthew says**

This series of books is an awesome teaching tool for history. My daughter is studying the Romans this year and we found this book to be both educational and entertaining.

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### **Judy says**

This book is often listed in guides as something that should be read about Italy. I finally tracked it down in the Boulder, CO library and thought it was OK. I'm apparently not as driven as some more imaginative travelers (?) by old Rome... the illustrations were helpful but they didn't really change my level of interest in archeology.

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### **Rebecca says**

What a wonderful book! An overview of how the Romans planned and built a city. Simple drawings with cutaways so you can 'see' the building stages. Great information for any student of Ancient Rome.

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### **Ted says**

*City* is the second of David Macaulay's very popular “children’s” books (all still in print) which he authored and illustrated in the 1970s, in which he produced large black and white drawings accompanied by interesting text, together illustrating how various things have been put together by humans over the ages. In this book his topic is a roman-era provincial city. The book informs us about the practical issues which determined such things as the required components of such a city, how various buildings would be designed and constructed, and the large number and different types of craftsman involved.

As usual with these books by Macaulay, it is both very accessible to younger readers and a satisfying (and satisfyingly short) read for adults. The *many* illustrations set it apart from other more cumbersome tomes that one could find on a similar topic. It's a great book for reading to a youngster who has an interest in historical things.

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### **Alexander Rolfe says**

Educational and pleasant. The older children and I read this before we all set off to see Pompeii, the Baths of Caracalla, and other Roman ruins.

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### **Geri says**

Macaulay does a superior job in illustrating an imaginary Roman city from start to finish.

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