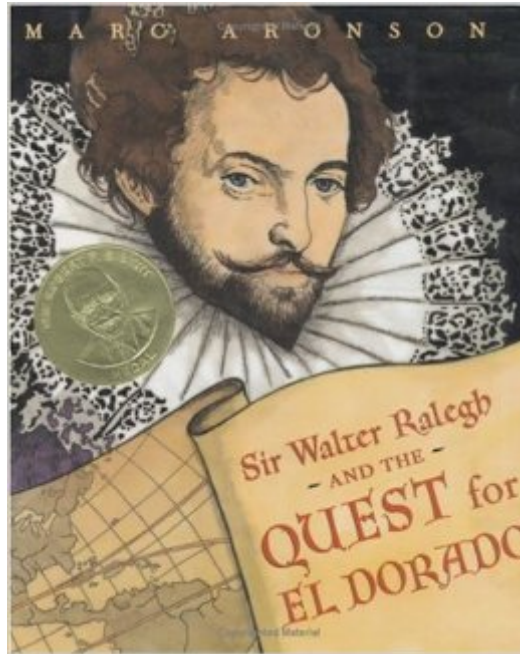


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# Sir Walter Raleigh And The Quest For El Dorado



## Synopsis

In this extraordinarily well researched and insightful biography, Marc Aronson explores the amazing accomplishments and dismal failures of one of the most flamboyant figures of the Elizabethan age. Best remembered for laying his coat in a muddy puddle so that Queen Elizabeth I could walk across it, Sir Walter Raleigh committed himself to pleasing his monarch and obtaining power in her court. He heroically risked his life in battle time and again, chasing after glory to win her favor. His notoriously ill-fated quest for the mythological golden city of El Dorado was perhaps his grandest attempt, but it also was his undoing, and Raleigh ultimately paid for his mistakes with his life. Despite his shortcomings, he was not only charismatic and brave, he was brilliant as well, and his contributions to the New World and to western culture as a whole were vast and enduring. MAPS, ENDNOTES and BIBLIOGRAPHY, TIMELINE, INDEX.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (7 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Sir Walter Raleigh (the way he spelled it) was so much more than a promoter of tobacco--although he certainly did promote tobacco. He was so much more than a man who lay down his cloak so Queen Elizabeth I would not get her feet wet--a story which may or may not be true. He was a man from a poor background who rose almost as high as one could in Elizabethan England--and then fell

about as low. Stunningly researched, brilliantly written, full of fascinating facts (did you know there were no maps of England that showed ROADS until the 1590s), this is young adult writing at its finest.

This book reads like an entertaining adventure novel but it is so much more. The court intrigues of Elizabethan England and not so different from the politics of today, both in government and corporations. The author has made a lifelong study of Sir Walter Raleigh and his passion shows. Raleigh's strengths, weaknesses and luck, both good and bad made him who he was and changed the world. *The Mechanical Age: The Industrial Revolution in England* (World History Library) *Colonial Living*.

This is such an insightful biography of Sir Walter Raleigh's life which consisted of pleasing Queen Elizabeth I, trying to gain power and money, and then ending his life trying to find the mythological golden city, El Dorado. The author used the preface to introduce and inform the reader what El Dorado meant to the early modern Europeans. He also included maps, prints, and timelines, which gives the reader a more broad and easy to read interpretation of his life. The author also includes Raleigh own writing from poetry to even a suicide note. There is a lot of research in this well put together biography. Along with all of this great information, the author includes a picture of six foot tall Sir Walter. This biography is obviously written to inform the reader of the history of Sir Walter Raleigh, and give a little inside of how the world worked back in the day. This book is recommended to ages 11 and up.

I'm not fond of thin volumes interspersed with pictures, which I equate with books for kids. Marc Aronson's *SIR WALTER RALEGH AND THE QUEST FOR EL DORADO* is an exception. In addition to this extremely clear and highly interesting account of personages, plots and exploration, Aronson provides a picture of the 6 foot tall Raleigh, on page 25, which shows him as exquisitely handsome, male-bait for a queen who doesn't have her eyes in her pockets, as we French say. As a boy of 15 Raleigh (Aronson's spelling) was already in France fighting for Protestantism, and as with most boys of that age, whose intelligence and courage reside in their scrotum, he was fearless of death, killing, at that tender age, his first man much the same as a boy today bags his first deer. As far as I'm concerned, Aronson's only faux pas is his claim that the indecisive Elizabeth was perhaps the greatest of England's kings, which is ridiculous when one considers Henry II and Henry V. (Here one confuses longevity for greatest, as one does with Queen Victoria.) My own books can be found

on under Michael Hone.

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