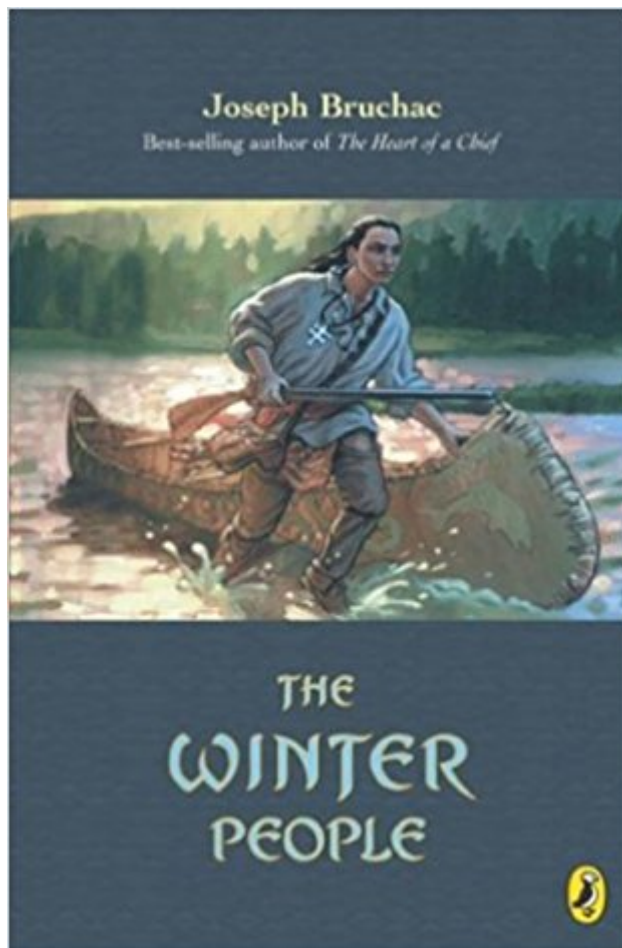


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# The Winter People



## Synopsis

"Full of history, danger, courage and raw survival, this compelling novel by acclaimed author Joseph Bruchac is certain to have readers on the edge of their seat, start to finish." —The Dallas Morning News  
Saxso is fourteen when the British attack his village. It's 1759, and war is raging in the northeast between the British and the French, with the Abenaki people by their side. Without enough warriors to defend their homes, Saxso's village is burned to the ground. Many people are killed, but some, including Saxso's mother and two sisters, are taken hostage. Now it's up to Saxso, on his own, to track the raiders and bring his family back home . . . before it's too late." Historical fiction doesn't get much better than this. The narrative itself is thrilling." —Booklist, starred review  
"A heartbreaking but exciting story." —School Library Journal, starred review  
Winner of the Disney Adventures Best Historical Fiction Award  
An SLJ Best Book of the Year  
A New York Public Library Best Book for the Teen Age

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0800 (What's this?)

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (October 21, 2004)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.4 x 7.8 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #134,126 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Canada #94 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial #98 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 5-9-A heartbreaking but exciting story. In a Quebec village during the French and Indian War, 14-year-old Saxso, an Abenaki, is caught in a struggle of survival and rescue when his mother and

sisters are kidnapped during a massacre raid by the English Rangers. Bruchac has based this historical novel on an event that took place in the fall of 1759 when Major Robert Rogers of the English forces led a group of 200 men in an attack on St. Francis. For the Abenaki, the struggle to survive, rebuild, and continue throughout the generations was nearly lost. Through Saxso's own words, Bruchac leads readers through the boy's pursuit to save his family. He is also depicted as religious, with beliefs that are a mixture of Abenaki and Christian teachings. An excellent complement to Native American or French and Indian War units with high discussion potential. Rita Soltan, formerly at Baldwin Public Library, Birmingham, MI Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 6-10. Historical fiction doesn't get much better than this. Like Michael Dorris' *Morning Girl* (1993) and Louise Erdrich's *The Birchbark House* (1999), Bruchac takes an event we thought we knew about--the French and Indian Wars--and presents it from an entirely different standpoint. In October 1759, Major Robert Rogers--of the famed Rogers Rangers--led his British soldiers and a Stockbridge Indian party on a raid against the Abenaki village of St. Francis, whose inhabitants were Abenaki Catholics and their French allies. This gripping story is told by Saxso, a 14-year-old who sees his home destroyed and his mother and sisters carried off into captivity. Saxso tracks them and rescues them. There is passion here both external and internal. As Saxso tries to find his family, he also seamlessly maintains both his Catholic faith and belief in Klist, son of the Great Spirit. His knowledge of his spirit kin in the forests and waters and what they can teach also strengthens him. The narrative itself is thrilling, its spiritual aspects enlightening. An author's note shows how much of Saxso's story is grounded in Abenaki narrative and in the history of Bruchac's own family. GraceAnne DeCandido Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Excellent book. I love historical fiction and this fit the bill. I am of French Canadian descent so I recognized the names of a lot of places mentioned in the book. Great story about the French Indian Wars. Great characters, It was a joy to read. Can't wait to read more of Joseph Bruchac's books.

The winter people gives a worthwhile glimpse into the daily life and culture of native people of the northeastern United States.

Product arrived on time and in condition as advertised. Excellent story - engaging and informative at

the same time.

Good short story for readers of all ages.

brand new, quick delivery

Nothing special

I received this CD quickly and it was in good condition. It was a good experience overall with this vendor.

I read this book to my fourth graders as part of our home school. I definitely not something they could read themselves, but they easily understood it being read to them. I used this book as part of our transition from our Native American Focus during the colonial period/French and Indian War to a focus on colonists becoming an independent nation during the Revolutionary period. The book takes place during the early stages of the French and Indian War in an Abenaki village that has seen a conversion to Catholicism and significant cultural influence by the French. This war marks a major shift with American colonists focus from relations with the Native Americans to being independent from Britain. The book touches on those shifting mindsets as compared to the early years of European settlement in New England. It also gives you an amazing glimpse into the thoughts of the French and their interactions with the native Americans. It gives you a peek inside the thoughts of how the native Americans' lives were affected by the French and the English: A peek into a changing world and a people who are living through a huge cultural shift. I love the way in which Joseph Bruchac seems to carefully blend history with emotions of the people who lived through that history. We have read several other books by Joseph Bruchac: Not all of them have been great, but all have been very informative. This particular book seemed to enrapture emotion from my two fourth grade girls. They were tense with anxiety during times of danger, they were near tears during times of loss, they were full of smiles in times of victory. I do feel that this book generally appeals to boys more than girls. Not only is the narrative from the boy's perspective, it also involves a boy's journey in which he steps up to fulfill his "manly" duties. I truly enjoyed this book as a woman, but I also do not usually favor any kind of "romance" novel or love story. But it is clear that with my girls and most other younger girls I have read to, that this type of story is praised and truly enjoyed by boys. My girls liked it, but they didn't love it. However, I would definitely read it

again especially for it's educational value in teaching history and the many crafts and projects you could bring alongside the story. I would suggest following this book with *Calico Captive* by Elizabeth George Spear (if you're reading to girls, this book definitely has an emphasis on an innocent love story and is from a teenage girl's perspective). In *The Winter People*, they mention a few times a woman named Susanna Johnson who was captured and made a teacher in their Abenaki village. That same Susanna Johnson is the older sister to the main character in *Calico Captive*. It makes for a really neat transition to hear the backstory of the Susanna you just read about in *The Winter People*.

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