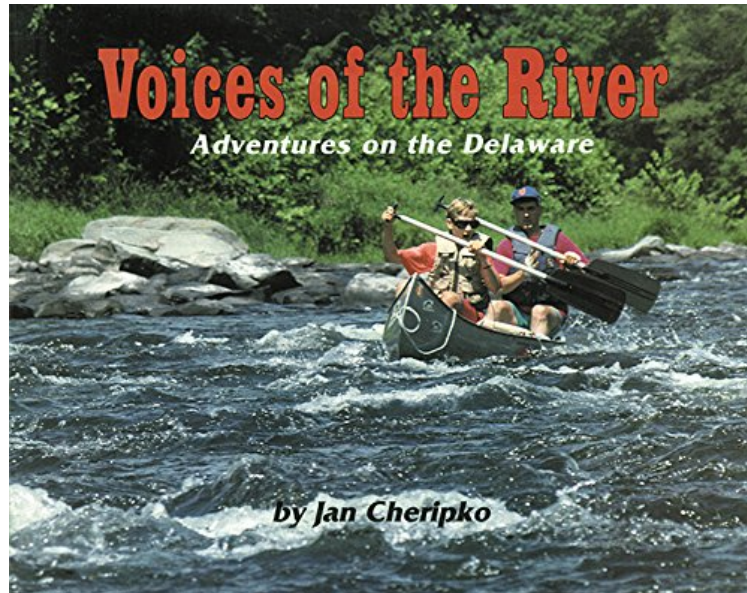


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Voices of the River: Adventures on the Delaware

Jan Cheripko

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Jan Cheripko : Voices of the River: Adventures on the Delaware before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Voices of the River: Adventures on the Delaware*:

During the past century, rafters and canal men ruled the Delaware River. Today tourists, boaters, swimmers, and fishermen fill its waters and banks, and lawmakers debate its future. Journalist Jan Cheripko and fourteen-year-old Matthew Smith set out to discover this popular and politically charged natural wonder. *Voices of the River: Adventures on the Delaware* chronicles their journey by canoe from Hancock, New York, to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The two travelers not only find the wonders of the river--its abundant wildlife, majestic and haunting beauty, and dangerous rapids--but they also discover how to put aside their differences to accomplish their goal. Filled with more than fifty photographs, a day-by-day map of the trip, and a captivating narrative, *Voices of the River*, says author Patricia Reilly Giff, is "a book to read and reread."

From School Library Journal Grade 5-9--An engaging personal account of a 215-mile canoe trip from the start of the Delaware River in Hancock, New York, to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Although neither 14-year-old Matt Smith nor the 40-year-old author is a seasoned rower (Matt writes of his apprehension in a short forward), they studied the route and prepared well. A map shows their daily progress and there are several interesting historical tidbits about the sights and stops along the way. Not all ran smoothly; short tempers caused arguments and the canoe had to be towed for the last six miles, but, still, the trip was deemed worthwhile. While his prose is somewhat pedestrian, Cheripko does capture the emotional and physical impact of such an arduous undertaking. He explains the formation and risks of Class I, II and III rapids, and conveys the feeling of being in a small craft on a big, powerful river. Peter Lourie's *Hudson River* (Caroline, 1992) recounts a similar trip, but without the appeal of a teen participant. An attractive

format with plenty of clear, colorful photos makes this a good choice for outdoorspeople planning their first canoe trip. Kathleen McCabe, East Meadow Public Library, NY Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Gr. 6-9. Canoeing enthusiasts will enjoy Cheripko's breezy account of his 10-day, 215-mile trip down the Delaware River with 14-year-old Matt Smith. Both Cheripko and Smith were novice canoeists and expected the rapids, weirs, and dams along the river to present a real challenge to their skills. Cheripko includes information about the history of the Delaware, the construction of bridges and dams, and the efforts of conservationists to preserve the river, as well as descriptions of the pair's adventures. Although Matt was invited along so Cheripko could "show what canoeing the Delaware was like for a teenager" and appears in most of the photographs (he also provides a brief introduction and an epilogue), the book would have been even more interesting--and perhaps more appealing--had he collaborated with Cheripko in writing the text or if more of his thoughts on the day's occurrences had been included. Full-color photographs illustrate every page. Chris Sherman About the Author Jan Cheripko is a freelance writer who has written extensively about the people, politics, and place of the Delaware River. He lives in Hankins, New York.