

Educator Guide

Exploring Rome

With Jason the Frog



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Empowering Young Minds, One Story at a Time

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Dear Readers,

In today's rapidly evolving age of artificial intelligence (AI), many children are hearing about and discussing AI without truly understanding what it is or how it works. At the same time, many parents are wondering whether their children are learning enough about AI and its far-reaching impact on their lives. In other words: *Are we preparing our children for the challenges AI presents today—and the even greater challenges it will bring in the future?*

The primary goal of **The Journey of Jason the Frog™** books is to educate children and spark their curiosity by exploring geographic landscapes while introducing them to AI's history, core concepts, real-world applications, research, careers, and the many opportunities AI systems offer.

As a former technology professor at a major state university for more than 20 years—and now as a parent of two children, ages 9 and 6—my wife and I face the same challenge as many other parents: preparing our children to navigate a world increasingly shaped by AI. It is essential to recognize that the only way our children can truly benefit from AI technologies is by developing their own intellectual and analytical abilities. AI tools are, ultimately, just that—tools created by humans to enhance productivity and improve our lives.

As parents, we must remain mindful that if we do not encourage our children to strengthen their minds, they may struggle to keep up with these systems. We certainly don't want them to become dependent on AI or allow it to think on their behalf. Encourage your children to use their own brains—to solve problems, generate ideas, and think critically—rather than relying entirely on AI to do the thinking for them.

These challenges are real, and they are not easy. But we have no alternative. We want our children to create, control, and master AI systems—not to be controlled by them. Remember: knowledge is power!

Sincerely,
Dr. M. K. Pour



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The Mission of This Educator Guide

The mission of this Educator Guide is to extend the learning experience of *The Journey of Jason the Frog*[™] book series by providing educators, librarians, and families with engaging, age-appropriate activities that deepen children's understanding of geography, artificial intelligence (AI), and critical thinking. Designed to spark curiosity and meaningful discussion, the guide encourages young learners to explore how AI works, where it appears in everyday life, and how it can be used responsibly—while reinforcing the importance of independent thinking, creativity, and problem-solving alongside technology.



“ Finally something with real substance, not just pointless storyline. My child loved the book. The AI notes and Did you know? sections led to deep meaningful conversations we wouldn't have had otherwise. It turned reading time into learning time in the best way. Quality is great too, bright illustrations and cute characters. Highly recommend! ”

—Amazon Review



The Journey of Jason the Frog™ AI Robot to Rome

In *The Journey of Jason the Frog™ AI Robot to Rome*, young readers join Jason the Frog, an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered robot frog, on a fun-filled adventure to one of the world's most historic cities. Filled with engaging storytelling, clear definitions, fun facts, quiz questions, and an interactive activity, this book makes learning about nature, culture, technology, and city life exciting and accessible for children.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the City

1. Why is Rome often called the “Eternal City?” How does the book show that Rome’s past and present exist together today?
2. Where is Rome located geographically? How do features like the Tiber River, hills, and plateaus affect the city?
3. According to legend, how was Rome founded? How did Rome change when it became a republic and later an empire?
4. Rome is home to people who speak many languages. Why do you think large historic cities attract diverse populations?
5. Why do many people in Rome walk or use public transportation instead of cars? How does this help preserve historic areas?

Reflection and Personal Connection

1. Would you like to visit Rome after reading this book? Which place or tradition excited you the most? Why?
2. Do you think AI makes learning about history more engaging? Explain your answer.

Technology and Critical Thinking

1. One AI Note explains how AI helps doctors predict flu seasons. Why is predicting illness important for communities?
2. The book mentions using AI for things such as computer vision, speech recognition, and virtual assistants. Which example did you find most interesting? Explain.
3. Several Future of AI sidebars describe robots, drones, and smart homes. Which future technology seems the most helpful to society?
4. How could AI-powered virtual field trips change the way students learn about places like Rome?
5. Some AI systems make decisions for people (such as detecting objects or translating language). Why is it important for humans to stay involved in checking AI’s work?
6. How could AI help protect historic landmarks like the Colosseum or Trevi Fountain in the future?
7. Rome is a very old city with fragile buildings and streets. What problems might happen if new AI technology is added too quickly, and how could people prevent damage to history?

Research Questions

1. Choose one Roman landmark from the book. Research its history and why it is important today.
2. Research Vatican City. Why is it considered its own country, and how is it connected to Rome?
3. Pick one Future of AI sidebar from the book and research how close it is to becoming a reality.
4. Find out how ancient Roman inventions still influence modern cities.

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Writing and Extension Activities

AI Travel Guide

Design an AI assistant to help kids explore Rome. What places would it recommend, and how would it keep travelers safe and informed?

Past vs. Future Chart

Create a chart comparing ancient Roman technology (aqueducts, roads, buildings) with modern or future AI technology.

Create Your Own Future of AI Sidebar

Write an original Future of AI sidebar that could fit into the book. Explain how AI could help cities, schools, or the environment in the future.

Future of Rome Journal Entry

Write a journal entry set 50 years in the future. Describe how AI has changed daily life in Rome while protecting its ancient history.

Technology Opinion Paragraph

Answer this question: *Should advanced technology like AI be used to manage historic cities? Use examples from the book to support your opinion.*

Design a Smart Neighborhood

Design a smart neighborhood using technology or AI, and explain how it helps people and stays under human control.

Key Vocabulary

Artificial Intelligence (AI): AI is when we teach computers to solve problems, make decisions, or help us—almost like they have a brain of their own.

Plateau: A plateau is a large, flat, or gently rolling area of land that is higher than the land around it, often with steep edges or cliffs.

Dialect: A dialect is a special form of a language spoken by people from a certain region or group. It uses the same language but may have its own words, pronunciations, and expressions.

Prosciutto: Prosciutto is a special Italian ham that's sliced super thin and tastes salty and delicious.

Reenactment: A reenactment is when people act out or replay a past event to show what it was like.

Economics: Economics is the study of how people and groups choose to use their money and resources to get the things they need and want.

Molecular Biology: Molecular biology is the study of how cells work by focusing on DNA, RNA, proteins, and how they interact.

Grandeur: Grandeur means something looks really big, beautiful, and impressive—the kind of thing that makes you say, “Wow!”

Unreinforced: Unreinforced means something is built without extra support inside it. For example, an unreinforced concrete dome is made only of concrete, with nothing inside to make it stronger.

BC: BC stands for “Before Christ.” It is used to label years before the birth of Jesus on a timeline.

Vespa: A Vespa is a small, stylish motor scooter that people ride instead of a car or bicycle.

Gladiator: A gladiator was a fighter who performed to entertain crowds. Gladiators wore special armor, used different weapons, and some were famous.



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AI Quiz

Instructions: Complete the quiz below based on the information provided in the book's AI Notes.

1. What does artificial intelligence (AI) mean?

- A) Making machines sleep
- B) Making machines play games only
- C) Making machines do things that need thinking
- D) Making machines look human

2. How does AI help healthcare professionals during flu season?

- A) It creates new medicines automatically
- B) It tracks patients inside hospitals
- C) It predicts flu timing and outbreak severity
- D) It replaces doctors during emergencies

3. How do social media platforms use AI?

- A) To repair damaged internet connections
- B) To remove all advertisements completely
- C) To limit what users can see online
- D) To personalize posts and targeted ads

4. How do checkout-free stores use AI to track purchases?

- A) Static price tags with barcodes
- B) Cameras and sensors watching item movement
- C) Store employees following every shopper
- D) Mobile apps guessing customer behavior

5. What can AI-enabled virtual assistants do for businesses?

- A) Manufacture products inside factories
- B) Design websites without guidance
- C) Answer many questions in multiple languages
- D) Control company finances independently

6. How does AI help turn spoken words into text?

- A) By translating written notes aloud
- B) By summarizing conversations later
- C) By guessing words based on tone
- D) By recognizing speech in real time

7. How do some modern cameras use AI?

- A) To zoom without using lenses
- B) To color photos manually
- C) To track movement and keep images clear
- D) To replace professional photographers

8. How do some businesses use AI in marketing?

- A) To personalize advertising messages
- B) To eliminate customer choices
- C) To control product manufacturing
- D) To schedule employee work shifts

9. How does AI help make subtitles for videos and meetings?

- A) It translates text into images
- B) It records video without sound
- C) It edits videos after they are finished
- D) It converts spoken words into written text

10. What can happen if people rely too much on AI?

- A) Computers may overheat
- B) People may lose thinking skills
- C) Devices may shut down
- D) Data may disappear

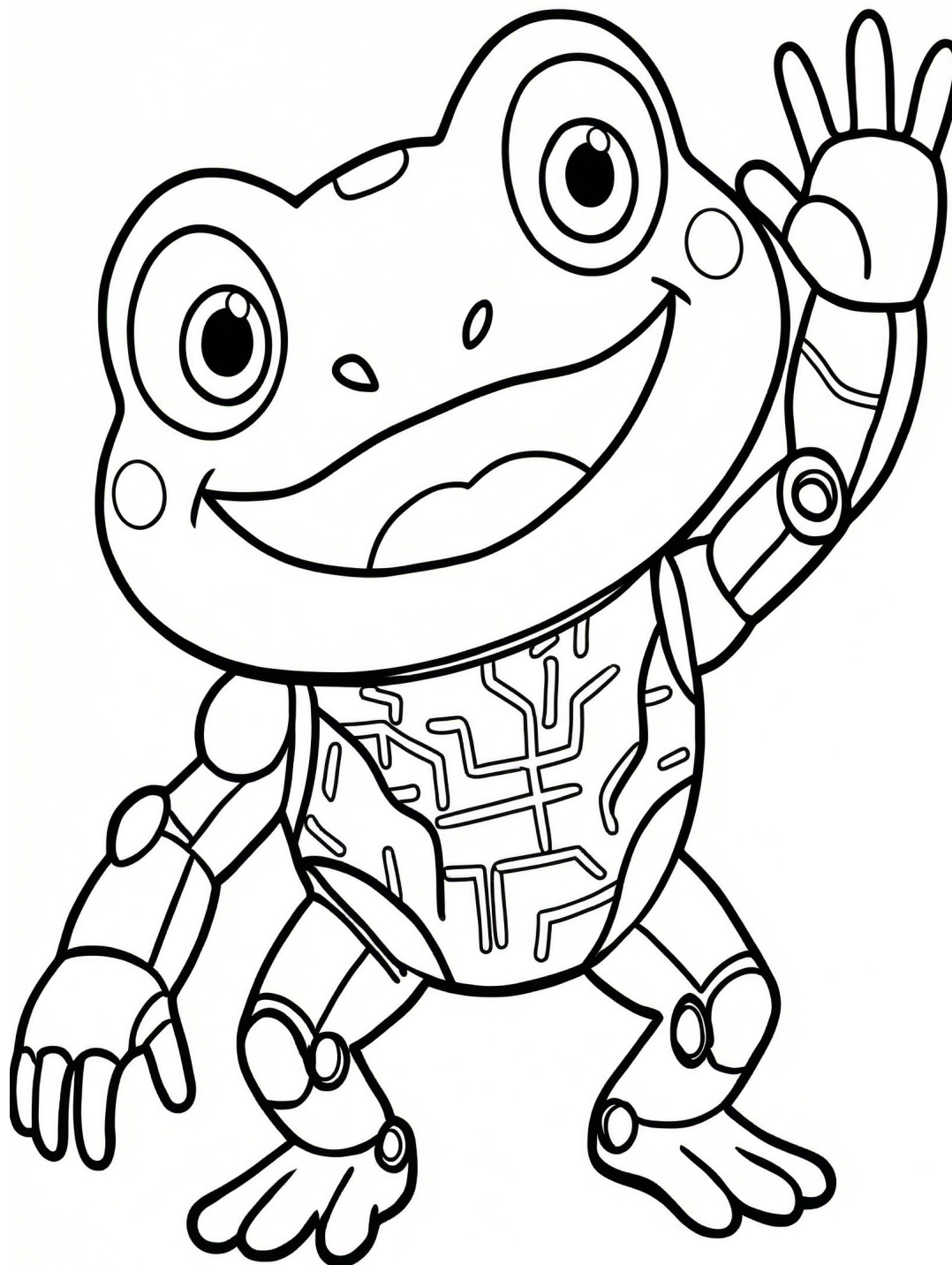
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Fun With Jason the Frog

Instructions: Can you help Professor Codewell finish designing Jason the Frog in his high-tech lab in New York City? What colors should he be? Color him in!



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About the Authors

Dr. M. K. Pour, DBA, MS, MBA is an educator, author, and publishing leader with a lifelong passion for learning and knowledge sharing. Throughout his academic career, he has been deeply committed to helping students develop strong analytical and critical thinking skills—an approach that continues to shape his work today.

His professional life has been dedicated to advancing research, education, and ethical knowledge dissemination across disciplines. Over the course of his scholarly publishing career, he has authored and/or edited numerous peer-reviewed articles and books, including his 10-volume reference work, [*Encyclopedia of Modern Artificial Intelligence*](#). In addition, he has served as Editor-in-Chief or founding Editor-in-Chief of many respected academic journals, contributing significantly to the global scholarly community.

Beyond his professional achievements, Dr. M. K. Pour is also a devoted father of two young children. As both a longtime professor and a parent, he understands the challenges families face in preparing children for a world increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence (AI). While children hear about AI every day, many lack a clear, age-appropriate understanding of what it is, how it works, and how it should be used responsibly.

The Journey of Jason the Frog™ series was created from this dual perspective—as an educator and as a parent. The books are designed to spark curiosity, strengthen intellectual independence, and encourage children to think critically while learning about geography, technology, and the real-world applications of AI. Dr. M. K. Pour believes that AI should empower children—not replace their thinking—and that true preparation for the future begins with nurturing young minds to question, explore, and learn.

O. K. Pour, MA, MBA developed a love of reading at an early age—a passion that continues to form both her personal and professional life. As an avid traveler and lifelong learner, she firmly believes in the power of education to open doors, spark curiosity, and inspire confidence.

She holds a Bachelor degree in Accounting, a Master of Arts degree in the field of linguistics, and a Master of Business Administration. Her background in finance and business management has strengthened her leadership skills and deepened the appreciation for thoughtful planning and informed decision-making qualities that are increasingly important in a world that is being transformed by artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies. These experiences encouraged Mrs. Pour to look beyond her professional work and begin a new journey as a researcher and writer.

Writing for young readers allows her to combine the love of learning with a desire to encourage curiosity, resilience, and humanity in children. Mrs. Pour hopes that every reader walks away with something useful—whether it is a new idea, a sense of possibility, or encouragement to keep asking questions.

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An Interview With O. K. Pour

Q: What inspired you to help create *The Journey of Jason the Frog*[™] book series, and why did you feel it was important to introduce topics like AI to children?

A: The inspiration came from several aspects of my life: my professional experience as a Chief Strategy Officer at a scientific publishing house, my own continuous learning mindset, and my life as a parent watching how early my children began interacting with technology and even discussing AI among themselves.

I realized that children are growing up surrounded by AI-driven or soon-to-be AI-driven technologies, yet their understanding of them is often framed by mystery or fantasy. Jason the Frog was born from the idea that complex concepts don't have to be intimidating or abstract.

In *The Journey of Jason the Frog*[™], young readers follow a curious robot frog who learns through machine learning and needs large amounts of data to train his AI. Max, the creator's son and Jason the Frog's best friend, takes him on different adventures where they explore cities, landmarks, animals, and geography. Along the way, we include carefully curated AI notes and Future of AI sidebars to introduce AI technology at present and in its future applications. This approach gives children an understanding that AI is a tool designed by people, so they can feel empowered rather than overwhelmed.

Q: As both an author and a parent, what do you believe children need most when learning about technology and AI today?

A: Above all, children need context and a safe space to ask questions. Research shows that understanding develops best when new information is connected to real-world storytelling. From a parent's perspective, I also see how quickly children lose interest when a story fails to fully capture their attention. Blending a nonfiction narrative with just a touch of age-appropriate descriptions of technology creates a kind of combination that keeps children engaged and curious.

Young children don't need technical depth; they need a simple, foundational understanding of what technology can do, what it cannot do, and why humans must remain responsible for the choices behind it. To reinforce this sense of human control and accountability, each book includes both a warning note and an inspiration note. This approach is especially important when introducing AI, as children should be reminded that creativity, empathy, and judgment are uniquely human qualities and that technology is most effective when guided by these traits.

Lastly, AI is not a passing trend. Despite some skepticism or denial, AI is here to stay, and it will become an integral part of our children's lives. Preparing them with understanding and ethical awareness is not an option, it is a necessity.

Q: The books encourage curiosity and critical thinking. How can parents and educators use stories like Jason the Frog to help children ask better questions about the world around them?

A: The stories of Jason the Frog create a safe space for learning, not only in the field of technology, but also across subjects such as domestic and international travel, biology, archaeology, and space exploration (with many more topics to come!). When children follow a character like Jason the Frog, they naturally begin to understand that the world is a big place, and that it takes many different kinds of people and technology to make it function.

To support this learning, we have developed free supplemental materials for parents and educators that offer guidance on how to use *The Journey of Jason the Frog™* at home or in classroom settings. Both parents and teachers are encouraged to pause during or after the story to ask open-ended questions, such as:

- What do you think would happen if the technology worked differently?
- Why is the city we are reading about called "XYZ?" How does the book show how the city's past and present exist together today?
- How do food, celebrations, or sports help people feel connected to the city?

These discussions don't require right or wrong answers. Their purpose is to help children think critically about what they are reading by questioning assumptions, considering alternatives, and making connections across different subjects.

Q: What is one misconception about AI that you think is especially important to clarify for young learners?

A: In my opinion, one of the most important misconceptions to address is the idea that AI "thinks" or "decides" independently like a human. AI is not capable of these skills, at least not yet, if ever. For young learners, it is crucial to understand that AI doesn't have emotions, intentions, or morals. It doesn't "know" things the way people do, it follows instructions and patterns created by humans. When this distinction isn't clear, children overestimate AI's abilities and underestimate human responsibility. By clarifying that people design, train, and guide AI systems, we help children understand accountability and ethics. They learn that technology reflects human choices and that those choices matter.

Q: What do you hope readers take away from reading this book series, not just about AI, geography, or animals, but about learning itself?

A: Across our books, we touch on many topics including conservation of landmarks and endangered animal species, emerging careers that do not yet exist, and the evolving relationship between people, technology, and the planet to reinforce the idea that the future is not something to fear, but something to embrace. More than anything, I hope young readers take away the idea that learning is an ongoing journey, not a final destination. Whether they are learning about AI, geography, or a completely different subject, the habit of curiosity will serve them for life. I also hope they come away with confidence that big ideas are accessible, that learning is a privilege, and that each of them have a role to play in shaping the future of the world.

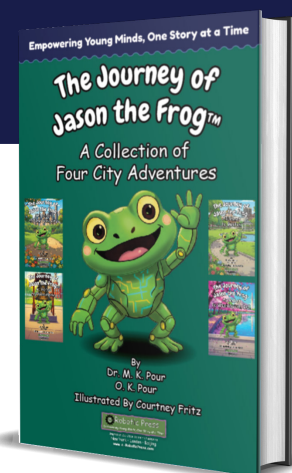
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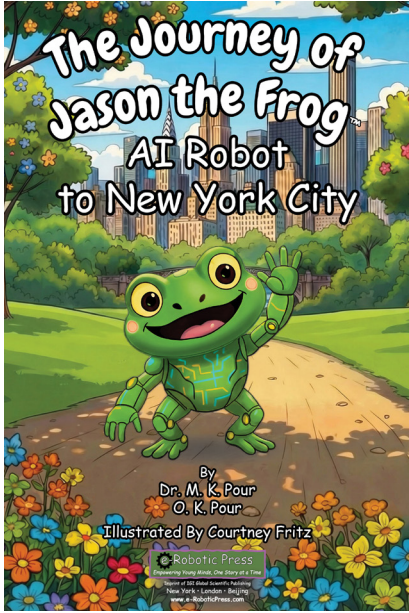
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Praise for *The Journey of Jason the Frog™*



ISBN: 9781971794006

“As a mother of two young boys, it can be difficult to find books that strike the perfect balance between engaging characters and facts that are meaningful, interesting, and educational. The Journey of Jason the Frog books do exactly that, while also making travel and learning feel exciting, approachable, and fun for children.”

—Amazon Review

“Our whole family loves this series. Navigating AI is hard enough as an adult—trying to explain it to kids is a whole different challenge. Jason’s journey makes everything feel fun, clear, and surprisingly easy to understand. We’ve really enjoyed it and found it genuinely helpful.”

—Amazon Review



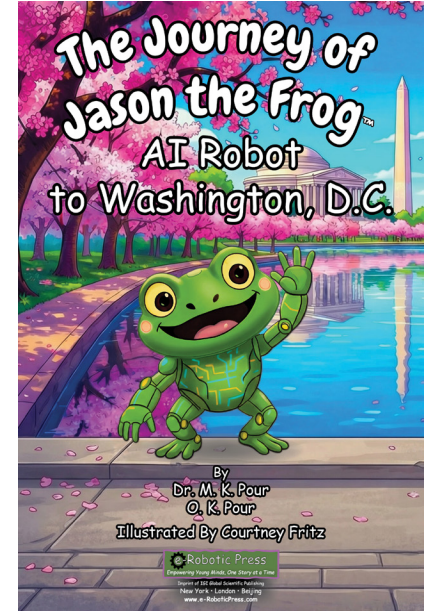
ISBN: 9781971794112

“As a homeschool mom, I think this book is excellent! It provides a lot of information about Rome and AI at a level that kids can understand. It’s well organized, and the characters are fun. The artwork is very well done, and my grandkids love looking through the pictures and finding details. I would use these books as an elementary geography course.”

—Amazon Review

“Finally something with real substance, not just pointless storyline. My child loved the book. The AI notes and Did you know? sections led to deep meaningful conversations we wouldn’t have had otherwise. It turned reading time into learning time in the best way. Quality is great too, bright illustrations and cute characters. Highly recommend!”

—Amazon Review



ISBN: 9781971794044

“I bought this book to try it out, as my child has been asking a lot of questions about AI, and I’m glad I did! The book is very educational and engaging, with interesting facts about cities and landmarks. It’s also not just a one-time read—kids can come back to it and keep learning. I’m definitely planning to order more from this series. Highly recommend!”

—Amazon Review

“I just finished reading Jason the Frog to Washington, D.C. with my kids, and I absolutely loved it! The story is charming and educational, and Illustrations are vibrant. The bonus AI Quiz at the end had us all laughing, some of the answers were hilarious. A wonderful book that keeps kids engaged!”

—Amazon Review

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