

Abraham Darby III Encyclopedia Article

Abraham Darby III

The following sections of this BookRags Literature Study Guide is offprint from Gale's For Students Series: Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism on Commonly Studied Works: Introduction, Author Biography, Plot Summary, Characters, Themes, Style, Historical Context, Critical Overview, Criticism and Critical Essays, Media Adaptations, Topics for Further Study, Compare & Contrast, What Do I Read Next?, For Further Study, and Sources.

(c)1998-2002; (c)2002 by Gale. Gale is an imprint of The Gale Group, Inc., a division of Thomson Learning, Inc. Gale and Design and Thomson Learning are trademarks used herein under license.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction: "Social Concerns", "Thematic Overview", "Techniques", "Literary Precedents", "Key Questions", "Related Titles", "Adaptations", "Related Web Sites". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults: "About the Author", "Overview", "Setting", "Literary Qualities", "Social Sensitivity", "Topics for Discussion", "Ideas for Reports and Papers". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

All other sections in this Literature Study Guide are owned and copyrighted by BookRags, Inc.

Contents

Abraham Darby III Encyclopedia Article.....	1
Contents.....	2
Abraham Darby III.....	3

Abraham Darby III

1750-1791

English inventor who built the world's first cast-iron bridge. Darby's bridge, which crossed the Severn River in Coalbrookdale in England, was a major improvement over the wooden or masonry bridges that preceded it. Unlike wood, iron would not rot (although it would rust if not properly maintained). Unlike masonry, the relatively high strength and low weight of cast iron allowed spanning larger rivers safely, without impeding navigation in the process. This made possible increasingly long bridges, culminating in such classics as the Golden Gate and Erasmus Bridges, among others.