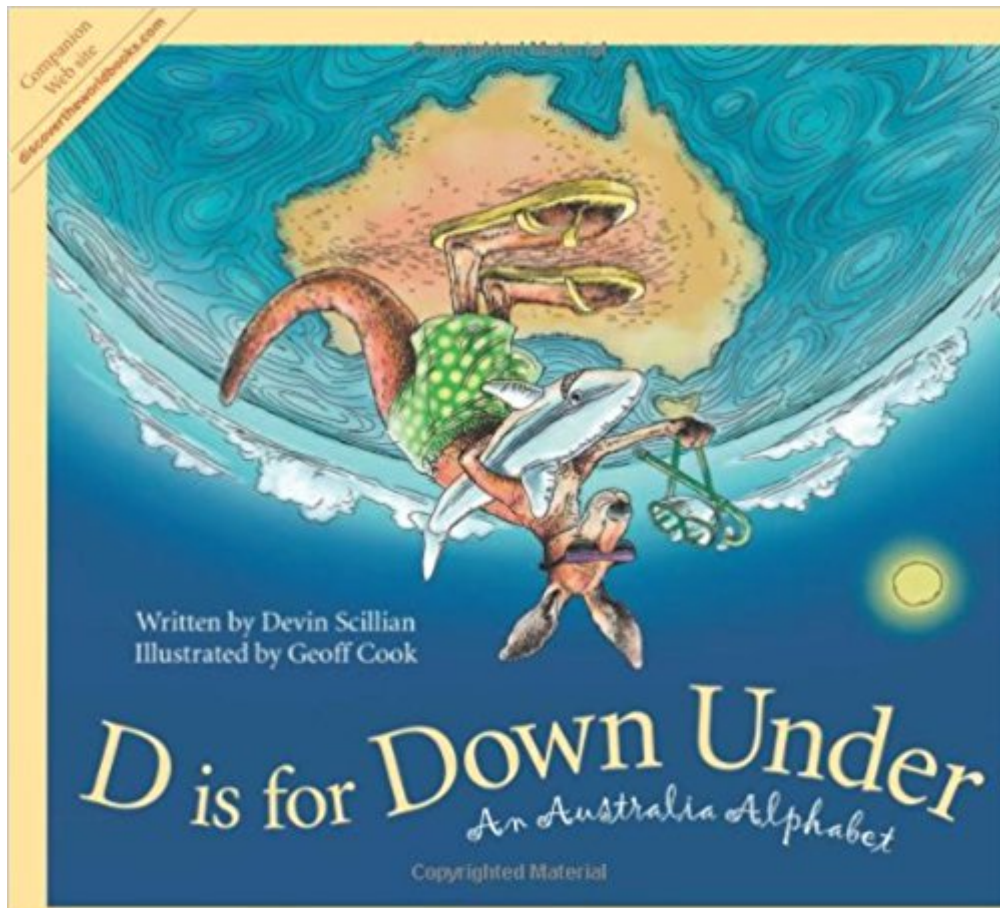




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D Is For Down Under: An Australia Alphabet (Discover The World)



Synopsis

What country holds the title as the world's smallest continent and yet the world's largest island? I stands for island, but one that's not too small. Our island is enormous. Just try to see it all! There's no place else quite like it; that is clearly true. Australia is a continent, but it's an island, too. Originally founded as a penal colony, Australia has long been known for its contrasts (think: wild outback and sophisticated Sydney Opera House). Accompanied by vibrant colorful artwork, D is for Down Under: An Australia Alphabet captures the spirit of this proud country and its many treasures, natural and man-made. Visit spectacular Sydney Harbor, try your hand as a jackaroo working a sheep station, or just sit back and enjoy a Vegemite sandwich. Below the starry night glitter of the Southern Cross constellation, Australia's "down under" wonders shine brightly. Devin Scillian is an award-winning author and Emmy-award-winning broadcast journalist. His books with Sleeping Bear Press include the national bestseller A is for America: An American Alphabet. Devin lives in Michigan and anchors the news for WDIV-TV in Detroit. Geoff Cook has been illustrating for 35 years. His career began as a graphic designer, after graduating from Prahran College in Melbourne. Soon realizing he wanted to be an illustrator, he became a partner in the illustration studio All Australian Graffiti. He lives in Australia.

Book Information

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Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

Customer Reviews

Devin Scillian is an award-winning author and Emmy-award-winning broadcast journalist. His books

with Sleeping Bear Press include the national bestseller *A is for America: An American Alphabet*. Devin lives in Michigan and anchors the news for WDIV-TV in Detroit. Geoff Cook has been illustrating for 35 years. His career began as a graphic designer, after graduating from Prahran College in Melbourne. Soon realizing he wanted to be an illustrator, he became a partner in the illustration studio All Australian Graffiti. He lives in Australia.

What country holds the title as the world's smallest continent and yet the world's largest island? I stands for island, but one that's not too small. Our island is enormous. Just try to see it all! There's no place else quite like it; that is clearly true. Australia is a continent, but it's an island, too.

Nice facts in the margin in addition to the text. I liked that the author had a touch of humor and fun in the short rhymes on each page. The items for each letter were very well chosen and I really got a well rounded sense of Australia and its culture. My biggest con is that the artwork is not as good as in other books I own of a similar style. The people in particular are cartoony and at times rather repulsive. In particular, think how they drew the Aborigine on the letter D page was inexcusable - it seemed to mock them instead of show them the respect they deserve. I also think how the children were drawn on the letter E page were too stereotypical on steroids. If it was not for my issue with the artwork, I would probably have given the book 5 stars. As minor con is that I also do not like that some letters have two page spreads and some only one page. I wish all the letters were treated the same for consistency and because its difficult to see two-page spreads as some of the image is always lost in the middle. Here are the letters: A- Aborigine B- Beaches C- Crocodile D- Didgeridoo E- Echidna F- Freedom G- Great Barrier Reef H- Harbor (in Sydney) I- Island J- Jackaroo K- Kangaroos, Koalas, Kookaburras L- Lifeguards M- Mate N- Ned Kelly (a famous outlaw) O- Outback P- Perth Q- Qantas (airline) R- Rainbow Serpent (a key figure in Aborigine folklore) S- Southern Cross (constellation) T- Tennis U- Uluru V- Vegemite W- Waltzing Matilda (most famous folk song) X- X-games Y- Yabber and Yobbo Z- Zest (talks about Australian cultural and pride)

I bought this book for my son when we moved down under, and have not been disappointed! The light poetry is informative and captivating for him (was 5 when we got it, still enjoys it at 7), the additional optional paragraphs of detailed information feeds MY soul and intrigues him sometimes, too, and the illustrations are fabulous. Altogether a great introduction to Australia.

Great book! Used extensively in my classroom!

We loved reading this book to our young people!

Beautiful illustrated-a lovely book

Very cute book

100% !

Very nice book, well illustrated. My daughter bought this for my grandson when she was leaving to study abroad in Australia so he would have a better understanding of where she was going. He is 9 years old and we thought this might be too young for him, but it's done very well and can easily span a large age group. Great book!

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