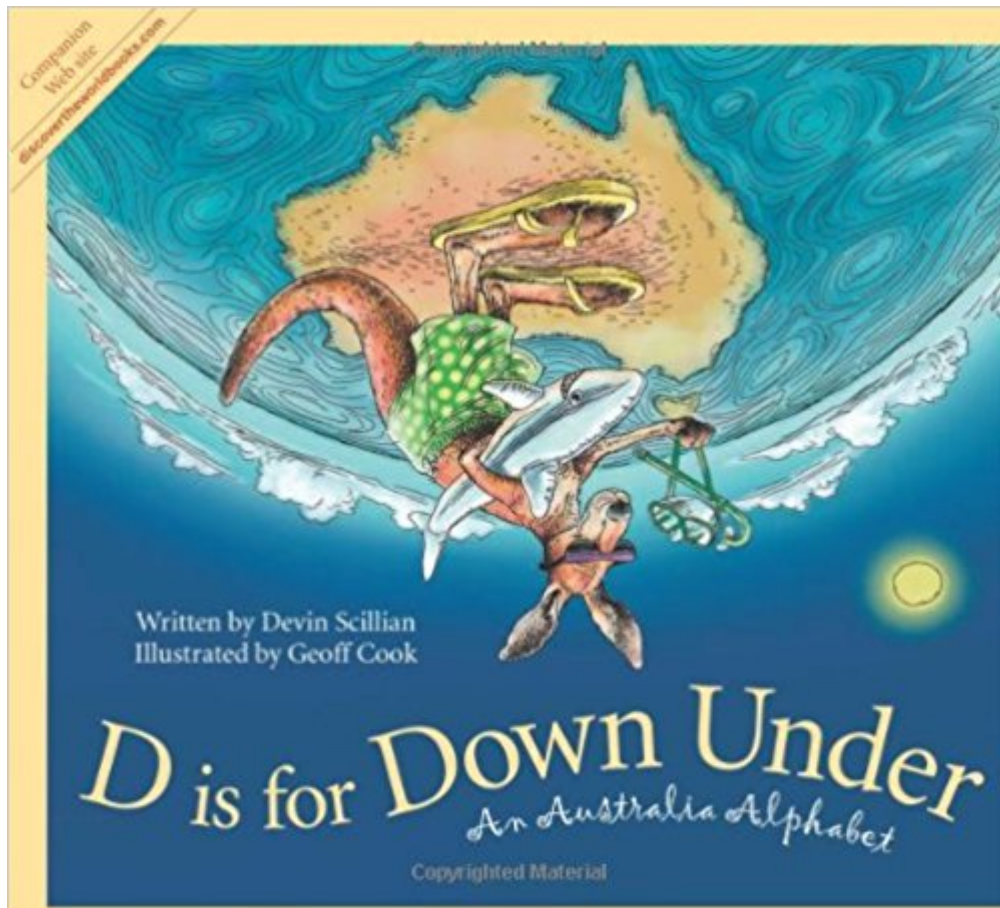




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# D Is For Down Under: An Australia Alphabet (Discover The World)



## 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

Series: Discover the World

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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? It 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 it's 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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