

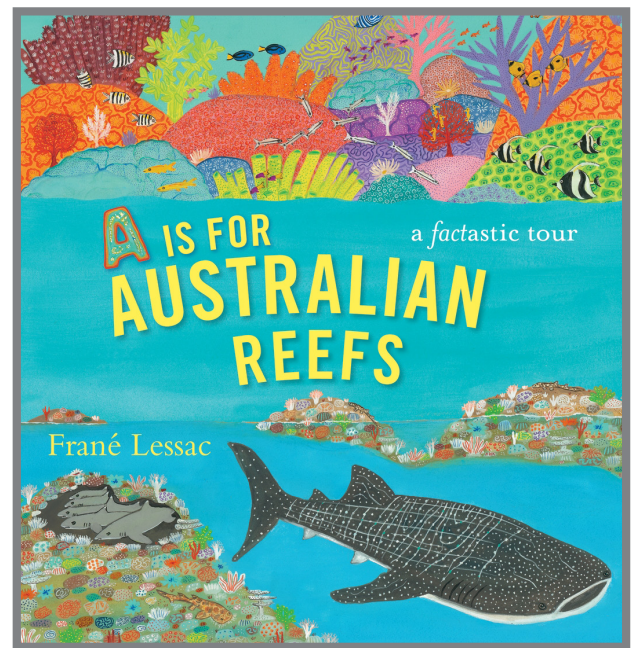
A is for Australian Reefs: A Factastic Tour

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR
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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower to Mid Primary



SYNOPSIS

Along the coastline of Australia, underwater reefs are bustling with the most amazing sea creatures living on the planet! A deep dive into the biodiversity of Australia's remarkable coastline from sharks to octopuses to dolphins and manta rays and seahorses—and the most famous reef of all—the Great Barrier Reef.

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Frané Lessac is an author and illustrator of international renown, having nearly fifty children's books published throughout the world. She was born in the USA and lived on the Caribbean island of Montserrat, as well as in London, before moving to Australia. Frané loves to travel and create books based on her worldwide journeys. She has contributed her distinctive paintings to many critically acclaimed children's picture books including, *The Legend of Moondyne Joe* which won the West Australian Premier's Children's Book Award, and *Simpson and His Donkey*, a CBCA Honour Book that was also selected as a USBBY Outstanding International Book. In 2019, *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga*, written by Traci Sorell, was awarded the Robert F. Sibert Honor Book Honor medal, the Orbis Pictus Honor Book medal and the Boston Globe Horn Book Honor medal. Learn more about Frané at www.franelessac.com.

STUDY NOTES

- Is *A is for Australian Reefs* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? Is it a combination of more than one of these types of texts? How can you tell? Who do you think the book was created for?
- Imagine you went on a holiday to one of the locations, saw one of the animals or visited one of the locations in *A is for Australian Reefs*. Write a journal about what you saw, heard and thought. Design and write a postcard to a classmate about your experience.
- Write a poem about any of the locations or animals mentioned in this book. You could write a haiku, acrostic or free verse poem using the words and illustrations in the book for inspiration. Illustrate your poems and bind them together to create a unique book of Australian poetry.
- This book is a nonfiction picture book. Write an imaginative fiction story about yourself or a character who visits or lives in one of the locations or sees one of the animals featured in the book. Use the interesting facts about that location or animal as a story starter.
- Research the author/illustrator. What other books has she written/illustrated? Which of these books can you find in your school library? Choose your favourite and present it to the class using persuasive language to encourage others to read it.
- What colours are particularly emphasised on each page? Why do you think Frané Lessac chose to make that colour prominent?

- Design a tourism poster or flyer that uses persuasive techniques to encourage people from overseas to visit Australia. Use facts and locations from the book to help you come up with some persuasive elements to include in your poster or flyer.
- In small groups, find other books about Australia in your school library. Compare these books with *A is for Australian Reefs* and discuss what is similar and what is different about this book. Give a short presentation to the class on how the authors/illustrators deal with the subject of Australia differently.
- The Great Barrier Reef faces a number of environmental and man-made threats to its ongoing existence. Why do you think the Great Barrier Reef is important to Australians? Why is it important to preserve the reef? What are some steps you could take to help look after the reef?
- The artist's images are created in gouache. Discuss the artist's choice of medium with students and encourage them to create a picture in the same style and an illustration using a different medium.