

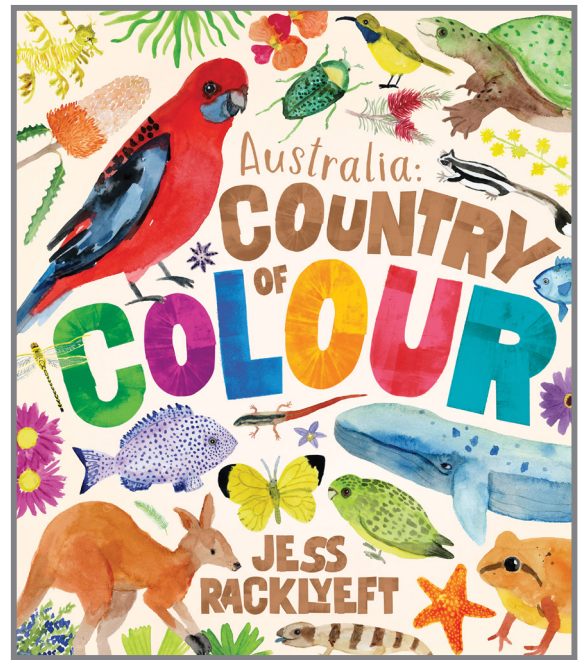
Australia: Country of Colour

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR
JESS RACKLYEFT

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid to Upper Primary



SYNOPSIS

With its vivid red dirt, big blue skies, wild green bushland and golden sandy beaches, Australia is a country of extraordinary colour.

Here is a celebration of the stunning plants and animals of this colourful country, from vibrant pink Flame Peas to startling blue Fairy Wrens, electric yellow Billy Buttons, glossy black Tasmanian Devils and many more.

Come and take a closer look at nature's paintbox and the rainbow of life that lives in Australia.

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Jess Racklyeft is an author and illustrator based in Fitzroy, Melbourne. From her home studio, Jess creates original paintings and prints for greeting card companies and various clients. But her favourite work of all is producing children's books! Jess has authored and illustrated several picture books and board books and has won several awards, including a CBCA Award.

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- Have a look at the front cover. What do you think this book will be about?
- Would you say this book is a work of nonfiction or fiction? Why?
- How many animals can you identify on the cover? How about the plants?
- When you think about Australia, what colours do you think of?
- Where was the last holiday you took in Australia? Did you see any new animals or plants there?
- What is your favourite colour? How does it make you feel?

WHILE READING

- Answer the following questions about *Australia: Country of Colour*. Use the book to help you find the answers. This quiz can be completed individually, in pairs or as a class:
 - The colour violet is often associated with feeling spiritual, brave and _____. (Answer: creative.)
 - A Quandong is also known as a _____. (Answer: Native Peach.)
 - What does the Bronze Orange Bug do when it is threatened? (Answer: It produces a stinky liquid.)
 - Where in Australia would you find the Golden Bowerbird? (Answer: rainforest mountains in north-eastern QLD.)

- The Australian Emperor is a type of _____. (Answer: dragonfly.)
- What type of parrot was once considered extinct and is now very rare to see? (Answer: Night Parrot.)
- How tall can a Fan Palm grow? (Answer: 20 metres.)
- The Great Barrier Reef is larger than which two Australian states combined? Victoria and New South Wales; Victoria and Tasmania; Victoria and Queensland. (Answer: Victoria and Tasmania)
- What fruit does the Blue-Faced Honeyeater especially love to eat? (Answer: bananas.)
- What colour is the Swan River Daisy? (Answer: purple.)
- What part of the Dainty Green Tree Frog is purple? (Answer: its thigh.)
- The Eastern Grass Owl is also known as the _____. (Answer: Daddy Long-Legs Owl.)
- Select any animal from *Australia: Country of Colour*, research the animal and presenting the research in the form of a poster (or a fact file or information report, if those better fit your learning outcomes!). Students should use the book as their first research source. Other books and internet sources can then be used to find out more about their chosen animal. Students should also draw/paint or stick on a picture of their animal on their poster. A list of topics to include are:
 - Name
 - common name
 - scientific name (in italics)
 - First Nations name (if possible).
 - Habitat
 - Where does the animal live? This includes the place/places it is found in Australia as well as the type of habitat it lives in.
 - If the animal makes a nest, what it is made out of?
 - Could you spot this animal's home easily in the wild, or would it be difficult to see?
 - Does the animal hibernate? When?
 - Diet
 - What does the animal eat? Does it have a varied diet or a very limited diet?
 - What time of day does the animal seek food?
 - How does the animal find their food? How do they eat it?
 - Characteristics
 - What does the animal look like? Does it have distinctive markings or colours?
 - How does the animal move? Try to use some adjectives for extra creativity!
 - How long does this animal live for in the wild?
 - Other facts
 - Which animals are predators?
 - Is this animal commonly seen in Australia, or is it difficult to spot?
 - Is this animal endangered or near extinction? Why? What can be done about this?
 - Are there other, similar animals in Australia? What makes them similar-looking and different-looking to this one?
 - What other interesting things can your poster tell us about this animal?
- Pick an animal from this book and draw it in its natural habitat. You might want to draw the animal in a different pose to the picture you see in the book! Remember to include the plants that this animal would live near or in.

AFTER READING

- Did you have a favourite colour section in this book? Why? What did you like the most about this section?
- What do you think of the introductory pages to each section, which explain a little bit about each colour? What did you learn from these pages?
- Describe your favourite animal in this book. What makes this animal appealing to you? Had you heard of this animal before you read the book?
- Go through the book and find animals in your state or territory. Have you ever seen any of these animals?

- Perform a counting exercise: count how many birds, or frogs, or bugs are in this book. Perhaps you could keep a tally of all types of animals?
- Had you heard of the term 'macropod' before reading this book? Look up this word.
 - What types of animals are macropods?
 - Can you find examples of macropods in this book?
- You will see that each animal and plant is shown with a common name as well as a scientific name. The scientific names can be difficult to read and say aloud! What language do you think this is? Why do you think animals and plants need scientific names as well as common names?
- List five plants you learned about through reading this book. Which was your favourite? Why?
- How many animals in this book contain a colour in their name?
- Where in Australia would you most like to visit?
 - What types of animals or plants might you see there, based on the information in this book?
- Did you enjoy reading this book? What is the coolest fact you've learned from this book?
 - Would you like to read more nonfiction in future? What else would you like to learn about?