

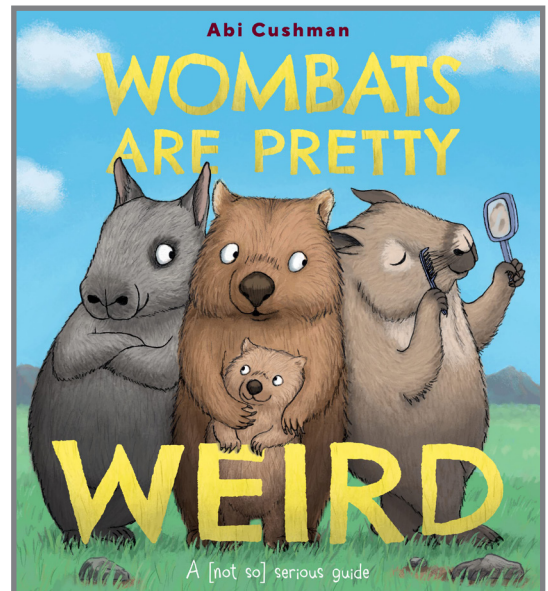
# Wombats are Pretty Weird: A (not so) serious guide

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR  
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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower to Mid Primary



## SYNOPSIS

Wombats are elusive, burrowing marsupials. Their teeth never stop growing, they have backward-facing pouches, and they're the only animal to have cube-shaped poop. And if you ask their snake friend, Joey, those aren't the only things that are weird about wombats!

Abi Cushman's *Wombats Are Pretty Weird* contains informative, expressive, and funny illustrations, and offers an entertaining blend of narration, sidebars, speech balloons and dialogue between Joey the snake and the wombats he meets in the wild.

A refreshing departure from traditional informational books, *Wombats Are Pretty Weird* is a child-friendly guide to understanding the weird and wonderful world of wombats.

## ABOUT THE CREATOR

Abi Cushman is the author/illustrator of funny picture books including *Soaked!*, *Animals Go Vroom!*, and *Wombats Are Pretty Weird*. She studied art and art history at Tufts University, the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and the University of Melbourne in Australia.

In her spare time, Abi enjoys running, playing tennis and eating nachos. (Yes, at the same time.) She lives on the coast of Connecticut with her husband and two children.

Visit [abicushman.com](http://abicushman.com) to learn more!

## STUDY NOTES

- Brown, green and blue are the predominant colours used in *Wombats are Pretty Weird*. What might this tell us about wombats and how and where they live?
- Joey the snake comes on the adventure to find out about wombats. Why do you think the creator has included him in *Wombats are Pretty Weird*?
- Humour is used throughout *Wombats are Pretty Weird*, despite the fact that the book mostly contains facts. Discuss the following questions about humour:
  - Find three examples of humour in the text.
  - Identify the techniques used to create humour.

- Why do you think the author has used humour in this factual book?
- Some identifying features of marsupials are given in the book, do some research and see what others can you find.
- Collect all the facts about wombats that are shared in *Wombats are Pretty Weird*, including habitat, diet, predators and appearance. Then complete the following tasks:
  - Do some research and see what else you can add to your list of facts.
  - Create a poster to share with other members of your school community so they can also learn about wombats.
- Throughout the book we meet other marsupials, in small groups, research one of these and either create a presentation to share your findings to the class, or create a humorous picture book like *Wombats are Pretty Weird*.
- What is your favorite wombat fact, and why?
- What's great about being a wombat? What's not so fun about being a wombat? Do YOU want to be a wombat?
- How do wombats' weird features help them survive in the wild?
- Why do you think wombats spend most of their time underground?
- In what ways are marsupials alike? How are the marsupials in this story different? In what ways are the different species of wombat similar and different?
- What parts of the book are real, and what parts are made up? (In what ways do the characters act like they do in real life, and in what ways do they act like humans?)
- Draw your favorite scene from the story. Why did you choose that scene?
- Think of your own favorite animal fact and draw a funny scene about it with speech bubbles.
- Design a burrow for a wombat: What would you include?
- Visit the Abi Cushman's website for some more fun activities you can download and print yourself <<https://www.abicushman.com/activities-crafts/>>