

BOOKS ABOUT AUSTRALIA

Arnold, Caroline. *Australian Animals*. New York: HarperCollins, 2000.

An excellent non-fiction introduction to Australian animals in their habitats, including lesser-known animals like bilbies and quolls.

Cobb, Vicki. *This Place Is Lonely*. New York: Walker and Company, 1991.

Engaging non-fiction about what life is like – for humans and animals – in the Australian outback.

Czernecki, Stefan and Rhodes, Timothy. *The Singing Snake*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 1993.

This Australian “pourquoi” tale explains why snakes hiss and the origin of the didgeridoo. The colorful Aboriginal dot paintings hold great appeal.

Fox, Mem. *Hunwick’s Egg*. Harcourt Children’s Books, 2005.

This tale about a bandicoot who finds “a most curious egg” is full of Australian flora and fauna.

Fox, Mem. *Koala Lou*. Orlando: Gulliver Books (Harcourt, Inc.), 1989.

When Koala Lou’s gets busy and forgets to tell her she loves her as she once did, Koala Lou sets out to win her mother’s love in the Bush Olympics. A reassuring read aloud.

Fox, Mem. *Possum Magic*. Orlando: Voyager Books (Harcourt, Inc.), 1991.

Grandma Poss uses her bush magic to make Hush invisible, and they must sample all the magical delicacies of Australia to reverse the spell. The charming tale crisscrosses Australia and familiarizes students with foods from Australia.

French, Jackie. *Diary of a Wombat*. New York: Clarion Books, 2003.

What exactly does a wombat do on Tuesdays? This charming tongue-in-cheek tale hints at wombat habits, making a light-hearted addition to a unit on Australian animals.

Knowles, Sheena. *Edward the Emu*. New York: HarperCollins, 1998.

Sick of being an emu, Edward tries to be something else, only to discover life as an emu is not so bad after all. When he returns home, he’s in for a surprise.

Knowles, Sheena. *Edwina the Emu*. New York: HarperCollins, 1998.

With ten little emu eggs to look after, Edwina takes to the road to find a job while Edward minds the nest.

Maddern, Eric. *Rainbow Bird: An Aboriginal Folktale*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1993.

A “pourquoi” tale from the Dream Time about how Bird Woman outwits Crocodile Man and brings fire to people.

Olawsky, Lynn Ainsworth. *Colors of Australia*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, Inc., 1997.

From red Ayers Rock to cream-colored sheep to gray kangaroos, this book introduces young readers to the colors of Australia.

Paterson, A.B. *Waltzing Mathilda*. Angus & Robertson (HarperCollins Publishers), 1990.

Illustrated version of the classic Australian song. The visuals bring unfamiliar Australian vocabulary to life.