

Classroom Resources



Written and illustrated by

Brentos

Suitable for

Ages 3–7

Themes

The Natural World

Recognising Traditional

Custodianship

Search-and-Find

Contents of this pack

- Overview of *Australia From Dawn to Dusk*
- Key themes
- Questions to ask before we begin reading
- Main discussion in key curriculum areas
- Final reflections
- Two activities

Description

It's a new day in Australia. Let's follow the sun!

Wake up with kookaburras on Arakwal Country (Byron Bay), bask with wombats on wulinantikala (Cradle Mountain), watch black and red cockatoos flying over Anangu Country, scratch the Daintree Rainforest floor with cassowaries on Kuku Yalanji Country, and go to sleep as quokkas wake up on Whadjuk Noongar Country (Rottnest Island).

Welcome to Australia as you've never seen it before: a dreamy pastel-popping ode to the significant places and animals on the land we all call home, from emerging artist Brentos.

About the author-illustrator

Brentos is an illustrator, painter and designer based in Sydney. He finds joy in watching birds and wildlife play and translating their unique quirks through his pastel colours and linework. The natural world, humour, surf culture and long summers also play a big influence on Brentos's illustrations, which aim to capture a playful spirit while shining a light on the importance of loving and protecting Australia's native wildlife.

Find this book at our website:

<https://affirmpress.com.au/publishing/australia-from-dawn-to-dusk/>



Key themes

The Natural World

Australia From Dawn to Dusk celebrates the natural world of Australia: its unique animals, plants and landscapes. This is a lovely book to introduce young readers to Australian nature and to some of the most well-known places and landmarks. Use this book to discuss the many animals that live in Australia, the abundance of plant life and natural wonders, and the many places we all call home.

Recognising Traditional Custodianship

This book draws attention to the Country that makes up Australia. This is a great tool to highlight the importance of acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land, and to use as a starting point to talk about culture and language across Australia. You might like to use this as an opportunity to talk to students about the land that they live or go to school on.

Search-and-Find

Hidden amongst the real animals and landscapes of Australia are something truly unique ... gumpuffs! These surfing koalas are the only imagined creatures in the book, adding a little bit of extra magic and Australiana to each spread. Young readers will delight in finding all the gumpuffs throughout the book!

Questions to ask before we begin reading

- Have a look at the front cover; what do you think this book will be about?
- What do you like best about the cover?
- Look at all the different animals on the cover: do you recognise any of them? Are any of these animals new to you?
- The title is *Australia From Dawn to Dusk*. Do you know what 'dawn' and 'dusk' mean? Where might you see 'dawn' and 'dusk' in the book?
- Do you notice anything special about the colours of the cover? This cover uses lots of pale pinks, greens and blues. Have you heard of pastel colours before?

Main discussion

Key curriculum areas:

Comprehension

Knowledge and understanding of the world

- The title page of this book opens with an Acknowledgement of Country. Have you heard or read an Acknowledgement of Country before? Why is it important?
- We open the book at Byron Bay, Arakwal Country. What colours can you see on the pages here? What does this show about the time of day? Who else is awake at this very early time of day?
- Go to the last pages of the book. How do the colours look here compared to at the beginning?
- On the very last page, the quokkas are waking up in the evening. What is the name for animals who are awake during the night? Can you name other animals that wake up at night and sleep during the day?
- Now flip through the book. Do you notice anything special about the sun on each of the pages? How do the colours change as you turn each page? What does this tell us about the time of day as we read through the book?
- Look at the rolling waves in Surfers Paradise, Yugambah Country. Who is surfing here? Can you name some animals that will be in the water while you're surfing?
- Now flip to pages 16 and 17. Can you name all the sea creatures swimming in the Whitsundays, Ngaro Country? Did you list any of these animals in your answer to the above question?
- Do you recognise any of the landmarks in Sydney, Gadigal Country? Have you ever been to any of these famous landmarks?
- What kind of trees are the koalas hanging onto at Bongil Bongil National Park, Gombaynggir Country? The koalas are described as 'endangered'. Do you know what this means? (See p.5 for a word definition exercise!)
- Look at the beautiful red landscape in Uluru, Anangu Country. Do you know the names of the birds flying here? Where else might you see birds like that? Have you ever seen one?
- Take a look at the shining rainbow in Lake Hillier, Wudjari Noongar Country. Do you know how a rainbow is formed? What animals might live in or around a lake? Do you think the lake is really pink? Why might that be?
- The echidnas are searching for dinner on the Great Ocean Road. Can you see any other animals in this picture? What are the big rocks they are next to? (Twelve Apostles)

Main discussion

Key curriculum areas:

Literacy and languages

Vocabulary

Make a list of words and phrases and find out what they mean. Here's a start:

- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| • Almighty | • Canopies | • Dusk | • Headlands |
| • Ancient | • Chuckle | • Endangered | • Oasis |
| • Bask | • Coastal | • Flowering | • Scatter |
| • Billabong | • Dawn | • Harsh | • Screech |

Indigenous languages

There are at least 250 Indigenous languages spoken in Australia. Use this book in conjunction with a lesson or activity on languages, providing the Country names of each place in the book as a starting point. See Activity 2 overleaf for an extension activity!

For background music, try the Australian Indigenous Languages playlist on Spotify:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1AGsr7ME2iID9e2b6sBJUO>

Key curriculum area:

Numeracy

- We travelled all across Australia in this book. How many places did we see?
- What time did the day start? What time did it finish?
- How many gumpuffs can you spot?
- How many kangaroos can you see at Kangaroo Island (Karta)? *As a class, look up how many kangaroos live there!*
- Flip through the book and count how many animals are looking out at you! What are the other animals looking at?
- How many animals were there in total? You might like to break this down further, e.g. how many mammals, fish, etc.

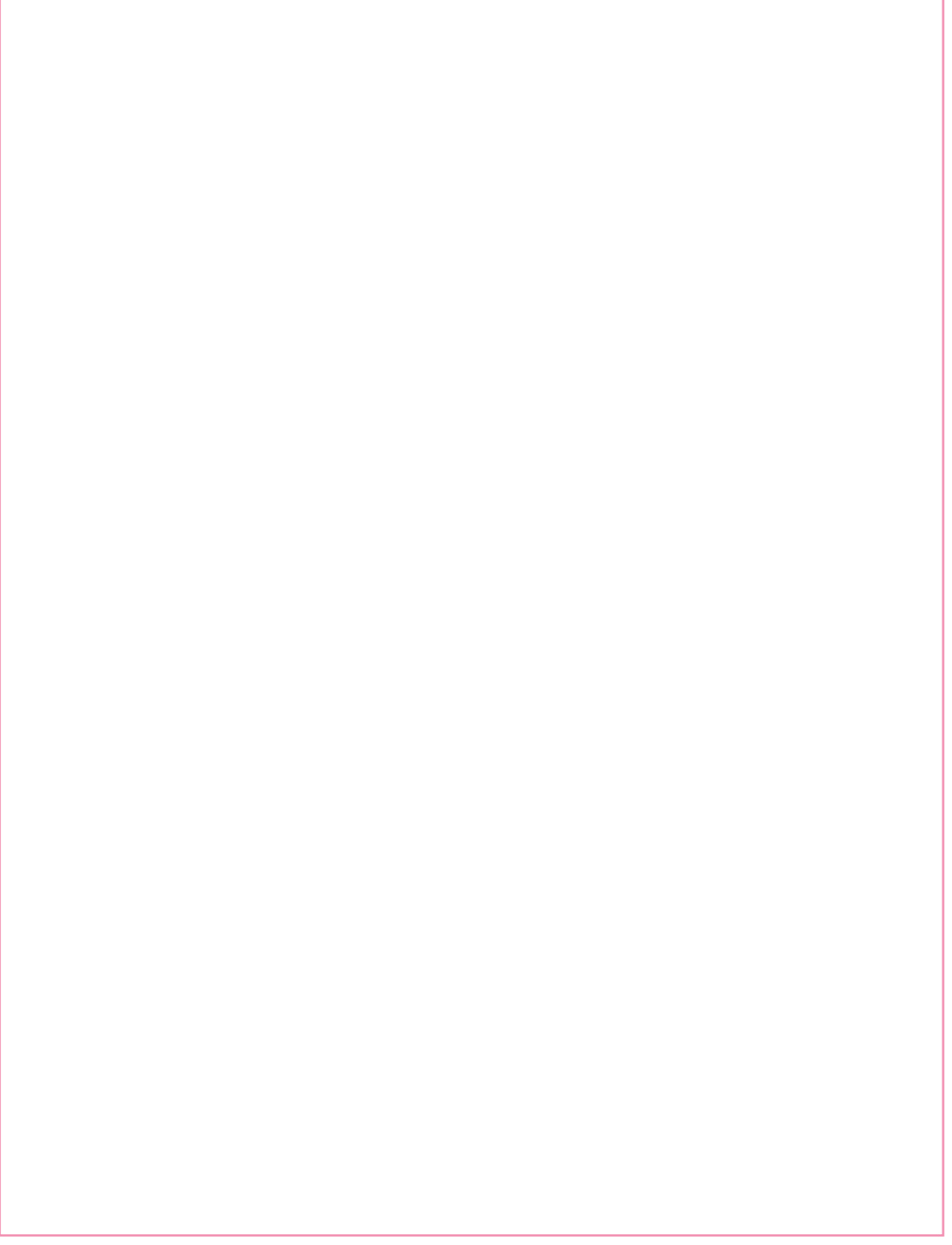
Final Reflections

- What was your favourite part of this book? Why?
- Would you like to travel to any of these places around Australia? Where would you like to go and why?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why/why not?

Activity 1: Draw your favourite Australian animal

There were so many animals in *Australia From Dawn to Dusk*, from jumping kangaroos to cawing cockatoos. Pick your favourite animal from the book and draw it below!

MY FAVOURITE AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL IS ...



Activity 2: Where am I?

Where in Australia are you? Whose Country are you living on and attending school on? Mark on the map below where you live and/or go to school, and find out the Traditional Custodians of the land you're on. Decorate the rest of your map with drawings, like in the book!

[Teachers, use this map as a guide: <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia>]



I LIVE IN _____

I LIVE ON _____

COUNTRY