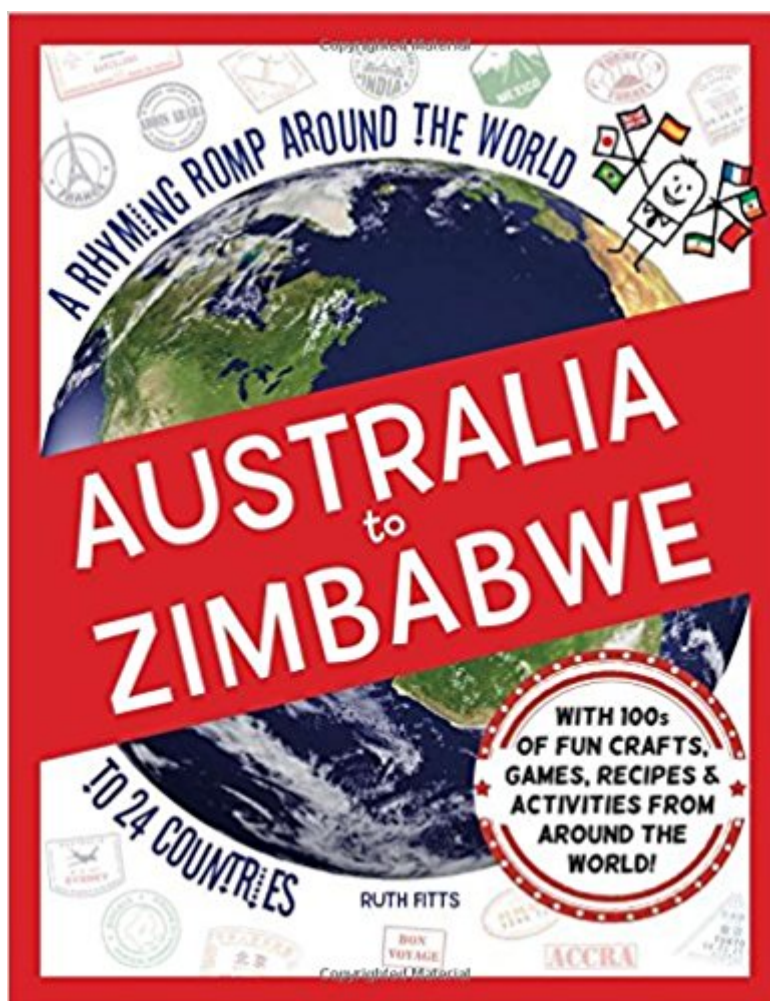


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# Australia To Zimbabwe: A Rhyming Romp Around The World To 24 Countries



## Synopsis

Readers will take a whirlwind romp around the globe with this award-winning A-Z children's geography book. Winner of the National Council on Geographic Education's GEM award and Foreword Reviews' INDIEFAB juvenile nonfiction book of the year, *Australia to Zimbabwe* explores 24 different countries around the world through memorable rhymes, gorgeous photos, detailed maps and fun activities. The facts are styled in a creative and accessible way that can be brought into each child's home through crafts, recipes, games, and recommendations for music and books. Activities such as how to carve like a Zimbabwean sculptor, how to play the Danish game of cooperative tag, how to make Turkish meatballs, and how to make a boomerang will be intriguing for all ages. The contributions from embassies, educators, and photographers around the globe bring an authentic flavor to this groundbreaking geography book, enabling readers to experience the sights, sounds, and flavors of each country. Also great for parents and teachers, this book offers an abundance of ideas for international festivals, creative projects, and rainy days. *Australia to Zimbabwe* visits Australia, Brazil, China, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Haiti, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Oman, Peru, Qatar, Russia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, Vietnam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 336 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 22 customer reviews

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in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Reference > Atlases

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 5â8 "An unusual look at a variety of nations around the world. The author has chosen one

country for each letter of the alphabet, except for W (which stands for the world) and X (which marks the spot), keeping in mind region, culture, and size. Each chapter opens with a poem that's several stanzas in length. Foreign words in the rhymes appear in stylized bold font and are accompanied by the pronunciation in gray tones. Along with the verse, readers will also find relevant photos and an outline map of the country with major cities. Each chapter features a color copy of the flag and its history, a political map of the country and a world map showing its relative location, geographical data, a list of words and expressions in the native language, and a variety of photographs depicting sports, food, culture, animals, and social activities with detailed captions. Readers will also appreciate multiple examples of further reading, crafts, online activities, research, and a recipe for a native dish. VERDICT A good purchase for avid geography students, but perhaps even more useful for teachers needing classroom activities.â "Eldon Younce, Anthony Public Library, KS

"Australia to Zimbabwe is a fun, action and fact-packed virtual tour of 24 vital countries of the world that children in grades 3 and up, ages 8 and up, will enjoy and assimilate. ...Australia to Zimbabwe is a great contribution to students of global communities and global citizenship awareness."

-Midwest Book Review Â "[The author's] love of travel and world cultures is evident, and she doesn't sidestep the colonialism and conflicts that are intrinsic to nations including Haiti, Mexico, and Vietnam. Ages 8-up. (Nov.)" -Publisher's Weekly"a fact-filled adventure around the globe.

...Â Australia to ZimbabweÂ is a fantastic stand-alone resource" Â -Gifted Homeschoolers

ForumÂ "bursting with information and photos. ...Students and instructors alike will find it interesting and informative" -VOYA"a delightful book that appeals to all ages... this treasure trove just begs the reader to keep exploring. ...Teachers, librarians, and parents alike should all be excited to get their hands on this book." Â -geographyeducation.org"[Australia to Zimbabwe is] a good purchase for avid geography students, but perhaps even more useful for teachers needing classroom activities."Â â "School Library Journal"Filled with colorful pictures, sidebars, historical background, as well as current pop culture, upbeat and creative poetry, activities, recipes and games, this book offers intriguing and varied information on the 24 countries it features. Recommended resources are provided on the country's page rather than as a compiled list at the end. This book could be read cover to cover or visited for specific information. A great resource for students, teachers and libraries."Â â "VOYA Magazine

A great addition to our homeschool library. Tons of facts, fun crafts and recipes, great recommendations for further reading and online resources.

Love the poems that go with each country. A lot of very useful information. Very colorful and fun to use.

Ruth Fitts' *Australia to Zimbabwe: A Rhyming Romp Around the World to 24 Countries* is a unique book. Rather than attempting to explore 1 country in-depth, or 1 particular aspect of every country (say, the geography), Ms. Fitts takes a look at one country for each letter of the alphabet (with *W* standing for *World* and *X* unfortunately not having an appropriate parallel in today's world) While the book is not designed for the adult reader, it is certainly NOT an insult to his or her intelligence, nor is it too in-depth or heavy for the younger reader. Each chapter starts with an illustrated rhyming introduction to the country in question. The poetic endeavors are illustrated with photos of the people, places, and things described in the poem, AND the poems are not carbon copies of each other "unlike some other books of poetry I've read, the rhythms and rhyme schemes of the poem for each country differ so that the reader does not feel trapped in a greeting card store by the time they're done. The photos from the leading poem are then repeated in the next *X* (4 to 12 pages or so), augmented with other photos, in which a prose explanation of each is provided. Finally, each chapter has a geography page, a recipe page (with some simplification offered for the American marketplace), and even a craft page. The author does not avoid sticky issues about the countries in the book; these are separated out into special separate pages included in the chapter of the affected countries. The Vietnam War(s), Zimbabwe's apartheid history, and others (but, unfortunately, not Taiwan or Tibet under the *China* chapter; these merit no more than a sentence each) have a half to full page to address the most controversial and shameful aspects of a country's past. All in all, this was an ambitious project, which not only shows off the devotion and dedication of the creator, BUT it also works for the reader. I'm passing my copy along to my 10 year old grandchild, who I hope will also find it stimulating. **RATING:** 4 ½ stars, rounded up to 5 stars where half stars are not permitted. **DISCLOSURE:** I was awarded a free copy of this book in a random draw. No requirement of a review was made, let alone any conditions on the tone / content of a review, however, it was suggested that an honest review would be appropriate upon winning.

During the Olympics this year, my 9-year-old son became very interested in the various countries represented in each sport. I gave him *Australia to Zimbabwe* because it presents kid-friendly

information about 24 countries in a very visual format. He was able to learn about each country's geography, tidbits of history, tons of culture, important landmarks, and a few words from the language. Additionally, the author suggests books, music, films, internet sites, games and recipes for further study and fun. Because my son was so intrigued and since there are so many extension ideas for each country, I've decided to use this book as part of our homeschool curriculum for the upcoming year. (Note for Christian and/or Conservative Families: There is some introduction to religions of various cultures. I share openly with my children about other religions so we can talk about how Christians should respond to their worldview, so it hasn't been a problem from my perspective. There are also some subtle liberal views thrown in - about handgun laws in Japan, for instance. We discuss those, too.)

It's a rhyming romp around the world - how much fun does that sound!? This book is chock full of interesting facts, pictures, and activities from 24 countries. It's reminiscent of both an encyclopedia and a travel guidebook, and is sure to leave its readers with their curiosity sparked. Younger readers may be overwhelmed by the book as a whole, but with the guidance of an adult this book is a fantastic way for kids to explore the world. Each letter of the alphabet (with the exception of X and W) focuses on one country and provides an in depth, but manageable introduction to the individual countries. The diversity across the globe is obvious, but the author does a nice job of highlighting diversity within each country as well. Educators and parents will love the wealth of content on each country - from games, to recipes, music and book recommendations, and more! This is a great starting point for elementary and middle school students doing research on different countries for school because it provides so many points of entry into each country. The accompanying website is also a nice feature because of the multimedia content that extends the learning experience. As someone who works with kids, I'm always on the lookout for fun activities, and this book is full of them. It would make a great resource for a school or library.

Visiting countries from A to Z is an interesting and fun way to introduce young people to all the 24 countries. Each country profile is simple for both teachers and students to easily find the location of each country on the world map, the origin of the country name, the people, history and the unique sights and wonders of each country that are well presented through the photos. The Yummy recipes for every country are simple and fun to make and all the games, crafts and activities kept the young people eager to look for more in this book. This book contains very useful information for teachers and students.

My friends and I pored over this book and promptly ordered it for the grandchildren. I plan to use it for a cultural experience with them, letting them choose a country to explore through the recipes, the music and crafts. This book is the one stop shop for facts and activities. Would recommend it for any age.

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