

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

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (19 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

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.

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