

Tips from the Illustrator



The illustrations in this book are collages. Collages can be made from a variety of materials glued together to create a picture. I've used paper, combining colors and textures to create the illustrations. After careful research of each animal and their environment, I select paper that best shows the animal's fur, feathers or skin. While I maintain the reality of each animal and their environment, I also keep in mind my own ideas of color and design. I may choose a paper for the pattern or texture that wouldn't be found in nature. You can see this in the night sky of the sugar gliders and the pattern on the leaves of the lorikeets.



I make a detailed drawing of each illustration. Using a copy of my drawing as a pattern, I cut each piece out of decorative paper. Sometimes I use a toothpick to glue down small pieces. I spread a very thin layer of glue to assemble the elements. It really doesn't take much glue. I put the whole thing between two pieces of acetate and press it under the heaviest books I have. This assures that each finished piece will lie flat. It's like putting a puzzle together! Each animal is made up of a variety of glued-together shapes. All the animals are glued to the background. I finish with colored pencils and pastels to add details, shading, and emphasis.



You can create your own animal collages of Australian animals, or animals in your neighborhood, or your own pet. Also flowers are good subjects for collages, such as the flannel flower from Australia that I used as background around the text. Look around you and collect paper that appeals to you. You can use strips from a brown paper bag to make long grass like the wallabies are hopping through. Another part of the bag can be cut out for fur, such as that of the wombat. Try using a crayon, colored pencil, pastel or chalk to make shading on the body and details like spots, stripes and faces. Crinkled crepe paper or colored tissue paper would make great water, like for the splashing platypus. See how the brologas are wading through cellophane water with sandpaper as their beach. You can find patterns using newspapers, old magazines, wrapping paper or greeting cards. Look for

details within the designs that you find interesting. Use your imagination, make it your own—and have fun.

