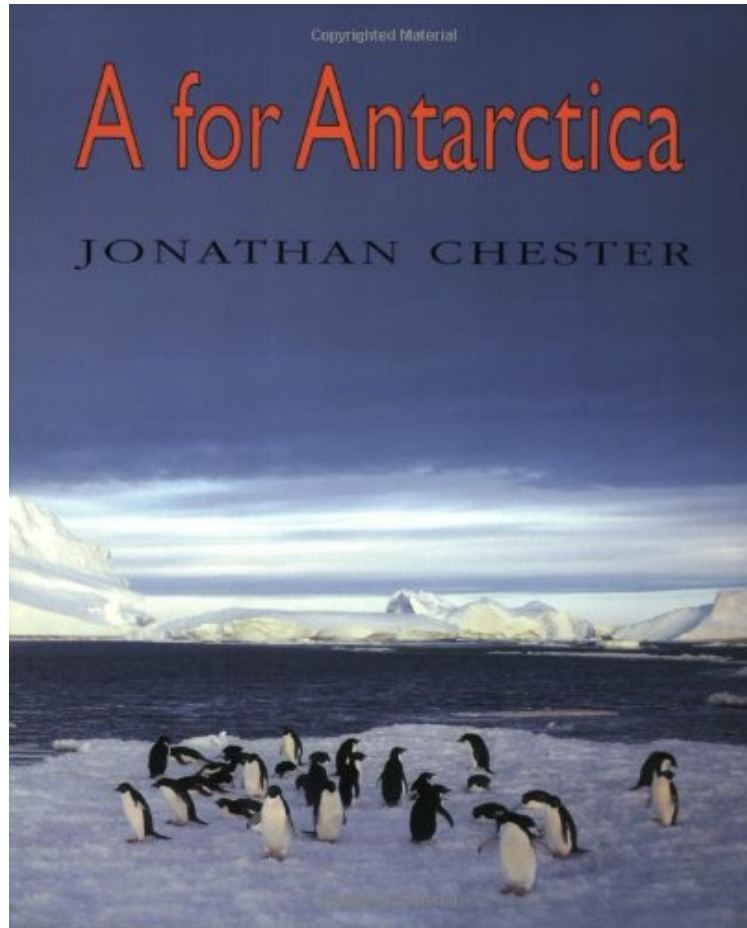


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## A for Antarctica

*Jonathan Chester*

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#5193537 in Books Tricycle Press 2004-03-01 2004-03-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 .23 x 8.49 x 10.281, #File Name: 188367273232 pages | File size: 51.Mb

**Jonathan Chester : A for Antarctica** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A for Antarctica:

Where can intrepid kids find the Aurora Australis, warm Boots, and icy blue Crevasses? Where does X mark the spot, Yachts break through the ice, and Zooplankton abound? Antarctica! With gorgeous full-color photographs and informative, easy-to-read text, this adventurous alphabet book takes young explorers far away to find out what it's really like and what it takes to survive in the frozen land at the "bottom" of the world.

From School Library Journal Grade 1-3? An introduction to human and animal activities in the Antarctic. While the full-color photographs are beautiful, bright, and clear, their relationship to each letter is sometimes questionable. Many photos include more than one object, so that one of a waterfall could also be interpreted as ice, glacier, or water.

Others portray unique aspects of Antarctic life, but are confusing. For example, "Nest" shows a snow petrel and chick on a rocky outcrop. Also, the photo of a large white "X" painted by surveyors as a reference point for mapping is taken from an angle that makes it look more like a cross. The typeface is clear, dark, and easy to read, but often the vocabulary is difficult and unfamiliar, e.g., crevasse, yacht, nunatak. Children may be frustrated by the use of such words as zooplankton, quad, and quest—they are briefly defined, but are not always accompanied by pronunciation guides. This glimpse of life in a fascinating area of the world lacks clarity and focus. Frances E. Millhouser, Chantilly Regional Library, VA Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Gr. 2<sup>^</sup>-4. Since this is not an alphabet book in the usual sense—"Aurora australis" is way beyond the primer stage—the letters are simply a linking device for photos of Antarctica that were taken by Chester during his several polar explorations. Indeed, the pictures are excellent, even showing surprising flashes of humor and fun. Antarctic wildlife and equipment used by contemporary explorers pop up in the many pictures, with each photo keyed to a letter of the alphabet and described in a brief caption. An orientation map would have helped readers locate the various places mentioned, such as Mount Minto and the Antarctic Peninsula, but even without one, Chester's book turns the frozen desert into something magical and alive. Stephanie Zvirin About the Author JONATHAN CHESTER is one of the world's leading polar adventurers and photographers. A fellow of the Royal Geographic Society, he works as a naturalist and historian on tourist excursions to the Antarctic, and has been lecturing on adventure, the Himalayas, and photography for over twenty years. He is the author of many books for both kids and adults, including A FOR ANTARCTICA and BUSY PENGUINS. He lives in Berkeley, California.