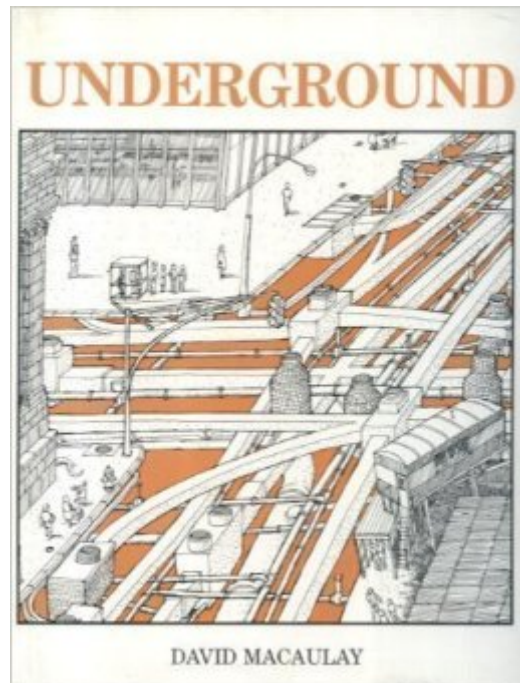


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# Underground



## Synopsis

David Macaulay takes us on a visual journey through a city's various support systems by exposing a typical section of the underground network and explaining how it works. We see a network of walls, columns, cables, pipes and tunnels required to satisfy the basic needs of a city's inhabitants. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 112 pages

Publisher: Collins (1978)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 000195850X

ISBN-13: 978-0001958500

Product Dimensions: 11.2 x 9.3 x 0.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (47 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #6,659,079 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #59 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Engineering](#) #6427 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Portraits](#) #56247 in [Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book ranks as one of Macaulay's best, as it reveals the networks of systems that are the lifeblood of a city, from various building foundations to sewers to subways, showing how they are constructed and sometimes interact with each other. The text, though minimal, is packed with information, which is supplemented by the superb and detailed drawings. One of the coolest aspects of the book, though, is the views from below, as if a rat with x-ray vision were able to gaze up at this intricate maze of technological wonders. Macaulay's sense of humor is evident throughout, as seen by his inclusion of various critters (including an alligator and an elephant), lots of references to dogs and fire hydrants, a billboard ad for his book PYRAMID, and even a human skull and hand (!!) in one drawing of an excavation. Great fun to read and highly recommended.

Most book illustrators portray buildings from an eagle's eye perspective. A few talented illustrators will open up the buildings and give insightful cross sectional views. What makes this book so special is that David Macaulay shows us buildings from the perspective of looking up from the bedrock on

which the building rests. This is unique and is typical of Macaulay's great visual imagination and wit. This book concentrates on a big city corner where four large buildings sit. The story begins with the foundation excavation, the pouring of foundation pilings and moves up to building infrastructure that sits just below the city street. We are all aware that a great deal of engineering goes into making large cities livable. However, there is nothing like a well illustrated book to help one understand the sheer complexity of our modern infrastructure. I would recommend this book to older children with an interest in the physical world around them. It is also a great book for adults with an interest in architecture and urban planning. There are illustrators with better drafting skills than David Macaulay but when it comes to sheer imagination, Macaulay is in a league of his own. Highly recommended.

What Mr. Macaulay does is pull up a city by the roots, shake the dirt off, and take a no-nonsense (well, maybe a little nonsense) look at what is revealed. The illustrations are clear and informative, with just a touch of whimsy. The book covers sanitary sewers, storm sewers, water lines, electricity, telephone, subways and building foundations. A gift for aspiring civil engineers of all ages!

David Macauley's work has just gotten better thru the years ...but even his early books like underground are wonderful! I received this book as a child & I'm now ordering it as a gift.

Macaulay uses his amazing talents to turn the world upside down in this unique book. Children (and even adults) will learn all kinds of things about what's beneath a modern city. I enjoyed showing my son the illustrations and explaining what it all means. Do beware, however, that this is a pretty abstract topic and that it can be difficult for younger kids to fully comprehend exactly what's going on. After all, thinking about what a city would like like with all the soil and rock removed and from many feet below street level is not a simple idea. So this one is probably best for older kids, as opposed to earlier works by Macaulay such as Cathedral or Castle that are much more tangible and easy for kids to comprehend.

It doesn't take a lot of words to review the books of David Macaulay. Having loved these books for decades, I recently purchased Castle, Pyramid, and Underground for my grandson who even at 5+ years is wildly excited about building things. Although he won't be able to read these on his own for a year or two, his parents read to him daily and Castle has immediately captured him. In a year or two he'll be ready for Pyramid and Underground. Macaulay's line drawings are excellent and the

text proves that he professionally knows what he's drawing. (He's been teaching at the Rhode Island School of Design for many decades.)

Great and Children and Adults alike who like knowing about what's "Underground". Have enjoyed this book since my childhood. Goes into detail about how foundations are laid, how things are setup and why, etc. Definitely a book you or your children will enjoy.

Macaulay is the master of simplifying complex topics. He's easy to follow, extremely well illustrated, and gripping -- which is a lot to be said for an historic architecture series! If you like to know how things work, buy any of his books.

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