

National Geographic Kids Reader: Giraffes

Notes for parents: reading this book with your child

- Before you share this book, look at the front cover. Talk about what the giraffe looks like. Discuss any prior knowledge your child has about giraffes, remembering any visits to the zoo or wildlife films/stories/other books about giraffes that they know.
- Spend time flicking through and looking at the beautiful giraffe pictures. Ask your child to use lots of different describing words as you talk about the pictures.
- Here are some ways you can help your child as they learn to read:
 - Read the book together, enjoying finding out about how giraffes survive in the wild.
 - Help your child to understand the words in the Word Spot boxes, and to look at their explanation in the picture glossary.
 - Talk about how giraffe patterns can be different and find examples as you read.
 - Help children with any unfamiliar words. Encourage them to use phonics and existing word knowledge to try to work the word out. Even if they can't sound out the whole word, they may be able to sound out part of it, and this may help them read the word.
 - Encourage them to look carefully at the pictures and labels and to talk about what they can see.
 - Give them lots of praise and encouragement!
- Discuss the different ways giraffes get water, such as from acacia plants as well as from watering holes. Ask children to discuss how giraffes stay safe from crocodiles.

Pronunciation guide: acacia (ay-cay-shuh)