

National Geographic Kids Reader: Koalas

Notes for parents: reading this book with your child

- Before you share this book, look at the koala bear on the front cover. Does your child know what a koala bear is and why they are special? Discuss any experiences of koala bears, remembering any visits to the zoo or wildlife films/stories/other books about koalas that they know.
- Here are some ways you can help your child as they learn to read:
 - Read the book together, enjoying finding out about what koalas are (*marsupials*) and how they live.
 - 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.
 - Help with the tricky vocabulary used to describe koala bears and other marsupials, and where they live, e.g. *pouch, mammals, marsupials, kangaroos, wombats, scent patch, joey, habitat, eucalyptus, Port McQuarie*.
 - Use the contents to find information after reading. Ask simple questions and support children to use the contents or skim quickly through; rather than reading word-by-word from the beginning.
 - Discuss the explanations and check that your child understands what a pouch is and how koalas are different from other mammals.
 - Help your child to understand the map and how to find Australia and the UK.
 - 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 as they tackle tricky words.
- Discuss how koala bears stay safe in the trees, and look for evidence and information in the book. Talk about how much of the day the koala spends sleeping and eating, and compare it with your child's day.

Pronunciation guide: eucalyptus (you-ca-lip-tus), Port McQuarie (Mc-kwo-ree)

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