

National Geographic Kids Reader: Manatees

Notes for parents: reading this book with your child

- Before your child shares this book with you, look at the front cover and read the word *manatee*. Discuss what the manatee looks like, and where it might live. Ask your child what the manatee reminds them of, or if they know what it is, what they know about manatees.
- Look through the images together and talk about what the manatee looks like.
- Here are some ways you can help your child as they learn to read more complex information books:
 - Help children read any unfamiliar words, e.g. *endangered*, *sanctuary*. Talk about the words and their meanings, and help them to use the Water word boxes as they read to make meaning.
 - Show your interest in the information and the facts that your child reads.
 - Encourage them to talk about what they have read, answering simple questions that you ask them at the end of small sections.
 - Challenge children to ask you questions based on their reading.
 - Help children with reading new visual information, e.g. the maps on pages 22–23.
 - Complete the quiz together, looking for specific words or sections of information using skimming and scanning, and organisational features like the table of contents.
 - Encourage them to talk about the pictures to develop their understanding.
 - Give them lots of praise and encouragement as they tackle tricky words.
- Discuss what conditions manatees need to survive and why they are sometimes hurt in the water.

Pronunciation guide: manatee (*man-a-tee*)