

# Collins

## National Geographic Kids Reader: Mars

### Notes for parents: reading this book with your child

- Before your child shares this book with you, look at the front cover and discuss what they think they can see in the picture. Talk about Mars and ask your child whether they think there is life on Mars.
- Look through the glossary words together: *Solar System, axis, atmosphere, gravity, probe, rover, orbit, habitat, weightlessness, astronomers, microbe*. Identify that the image on the front cover is a rover. Talk about the other words and their meanings, helping your child to develop understanding and build interest before you read together.
- Here are some ways you can help your child as they learn to read more complex information books:
  - Support children to tackle unfamiliar words and names as they appear. Help them to pronounce strange place names, or scientific vocabulary: *Gusev Crater, Olympus Mons, Sojourner, Phoenix Mars Lander, Mariner 4, Cape Canaveral, Hawaiian, Curiosity*.
  - Encourage your child to explain ideas back to you as you read together, e.g. why humans cannot breathe on Mars.
  - Try to make connections to the ideas to help your child understand and remember what they have read, e.g. on page 5, talk about and identify the other planets in the Solar System that they may have heard of.
  - Help your child to look closely for information to support their reading in the images and pictures.
- Discuss what it would be like to travel to Mars in the future. Challenge your child to explain the obstacles, and how they could be overcome.

**Pronunciation guide:** Gusev (*goo-sev*)

# Collins