

National Geographic Kids Reader: Owls

Notes for parents: reading this book with your child

- Before you share this book, look at the front cover and talk about what you can see in the picture. Discuss the owl and what it is doing. Think about any times you have seen owls together, or any knowledge of them you have from visits to the zoo or bird centres, or wildlife films/stories/other books.
- Look at the different owls featured in the pictures on page 7. Ask children to spot what is the same and what is different about the owls.
- Here are some ways you can help your child as they learn to read:
 - Read the book together, looking at the images and finding out about how owls survive.
 - Help your child to read and say any unfamiliar owl names, as they meet them in the book: Oriental bay owl, barred owl, young burrowing owl, Eurasian eagle owl.
 - Talk about the explanations in each section. Make up some simple questions, asking them to find the answers in the words or pictures, e.g. what do owls like to eat?
 - 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, e.g. camouflage
 - Have fun making the owl noises on page 29 to help children understand these describing words: *screech, hiss, hoot, whistle, bark!*
 - Give them lots of praise and encouragement as they tackle new words!
- Discuss which owl is your child's favourite. Help them to explain why, using language from the word bank on page 31.

Pronunciation guide: camouflage (cam-oh-flah-j), Eurasian (Yur-asian)