

## National Geographic Kids Reader: Sharks

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

- Before your child shares this book with you, look at the front cover and discuss the picture of the shark. Ask them how they feel about sharks and whether they think humans should be scared of them.
- Look at the pictures in the book together and read the names of the sharks featured: *Oceanic whitetip*, *hammerhead*, *remoras*, *Spined pygmy*, *mako*, *wobbegongs*. Talk about any that are familiar, or that your child is particularly interested in.
- Help your child to understand that although sharks are predators, they are more vulnerable than humans. Use Bethany Hamilton's account and the *People Attack* pages 30–31 to talk about this.
- Here are some ways you can help your child as they learn to read more complex information books:
  - Help children read shark names and any new strange words, e.g. *cartilage*, *serrated*. Talk about the words and their meanings, using the images to help understand what they mean.
  - Show your interest in the information and facts that your child reads.
  - Encourage your child to talk about what they have read, answering simple questions that you ask them at the end of small sections.
  - Support them to recount sequences of information, e.g. the stages that lead to a shark pup hatching.
  - Encourage them to use the pictures as they read to develop their understanding.
  - Give them lots of praise and encouragement as they tackle tricky words.
- Discuss which is the most amazing shark in the book and what makes it special.

**Pronunciation guide:** pygmy (*pig-me*), wobbegong (*wob-be-gong*)