

National Geographic Kids Reader: Slither, Snake!

Notes for parents: reading this book with your child

- Before you share this book with your child, look at the front cover and talk about what the snake looks like. Discuss any prior knowledge your child has about snakes, and where they think that they live.
- This book has lots of unfamiliar snake names. Read these to your child as you read together and help them to say the names aloud as you read each page, and again using the map on page 22: *eyelash tree viper*, *western diamondback rattlesnake*, *Arizona mountain king snake*, *king cobra*, *sedge viper*, *boa constrictor*.
- Here are some ways you can help your child as they learn to read:
 - Read the book together, showing your interest in finding out about the different snakes and their features.
 - Talk about what you can see in each picture and compare each snake's appearance.
 - Help with any unfamiliar words and practise saying the snakes' names aloud.
 - Encourage children to sound out words. 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.
 - Encourage them to use the pictures to find a word that would make sense, e.g. How do snakes move? – they sli----.
 - If your child gets stuck, read the book together, so that they don't lose their confidence.
 - Give them lots of praise and encouragement as they tackle new words.
- Ask your child to choose their favourite snake and explain their choice. Ask questions about the facts, e.g. *Which snake shows its fangs? What does it use its fangs for?*