

National Geographic Kids Reader: Trot, Pony!

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 the pony that you can see in the picture. Discuss what trotting is and how ponies move. Discuss any experiences that your child has had with ponies and horses.
- This book has lots of unfamiliar pony names. Read these to your child and help them to say the names aloud using the pictures on page 22: *Welsh mountain pony*, *Exmoor pony*, *Dartmoor pony*, *Icelandic horses*, *Chincoteague*, *Haflinger*, *Shetland*, *Norwegian fjord horse*.
- Here are some ways you can help your child as they learn to read:
 - Read the book together, and look closely at the ponies.
 - Help with any unfamiliar words and practise saying the ponies' 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.
 - Look hard at word endings and notice together that words like *grassy* are made from known words: *grass*.
 - Encourage them to use the pictures to work out unfamiliar words and think about what word would make sense.
 - 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.
- Discuss which pony is your child's favourite and why. Help them to explain their reasons, providing new vocabulary where needed.

Pronunciation guide: *Chincoteague* (*Chin-coh-teeg*), *fjord* (*fee-yord*)