

## National Geographic Kids Reader: Whales

### 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 know about whales. Prompt them to think about what they know about whales from wildlife programmes/ films and other stories/ books and experiences.
- Challenge children to describe the whale on the front cover, using powerful adjectives (describing words).
- Here are some ways you can help your child as they learn to read more complex information books:
  - Look through the table of contents together, discussing points of interest, e.g. what does your child think the whale's deadly dangers are?
  - Look at the glossary together and read the words and explanations: *migration, mate, predator, spermaceti, carnivore, equator, blubber, echolocation, whaling, pollution*. Relate some of the words to children's wider experiences, e.g. think of other animals that migrate.
  - Help your child to read the unfamiliar topic words: *tail fluke, blowhole, bachelor groups, navigate, scientists, submarine, ambergris, kerosene, chemicals, environment, pollutant, Greenpeace, Sea Shepherd Conservation*.
  - Encourage your child to explain one key thing that they have learned about whales.
  - Encourage them to challenge you with questions about whales.
  - Help your child to read more complex information, e.g. the explanation about echolocation. Ask simple questions and discuss their ideas to strengthen their understanding.
- Discuss which fact about whales is the most surprising. Talk about the images, e.g. the diver on page 9. Imagine how the diver must feel, and discuss whether they are safe or not – and how you know.

**Pronunciation guide:** ambergris (*amber-grees*), spermaceti (*sperm-a-sett-ee*)

# Collins