

National Geographic Kids Readers: Coral Reefs

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 you can see in the picture. Discuss any existing knowledge about coral reefs and the creatures that live in them.
- Look through the images together and read the names of the creatures shown. Discuss the appearance of any that particularly interest your child.
- Here are some ways you can help your child as they learn to read more complex information books:
 - Help children read new creature names and any unfamiliar words, e.g. *ecosystem*, *equator*, *coral polyp*, *camouflage*, *algae*, *pollution*. Talk about the words and their meanings, and show your child how to use the picture glossary to help with understanding.
 - Show your interest in the information and be impressed by the facts that your child reads.
 - Encourage your child to talk about what they have read, answering simple questions that you ask.
 - Enjoy the jokes together, teasing out the meaning from the word-play if necessary.
 - Encourage them to use the pictures and labels to develop their understanding as they read.
 - Give them lots of praise and encouragement!
- Discuss what threatens coral reefs and what can be done to protect them.

Pronunciation guide: ecosystem (ee-coh sis-tem), equator (ee-cway-tuh), polyp (pol-ip), algae (al-gee), camouflage (cam-oh-flarge), dugong (doo-gong)