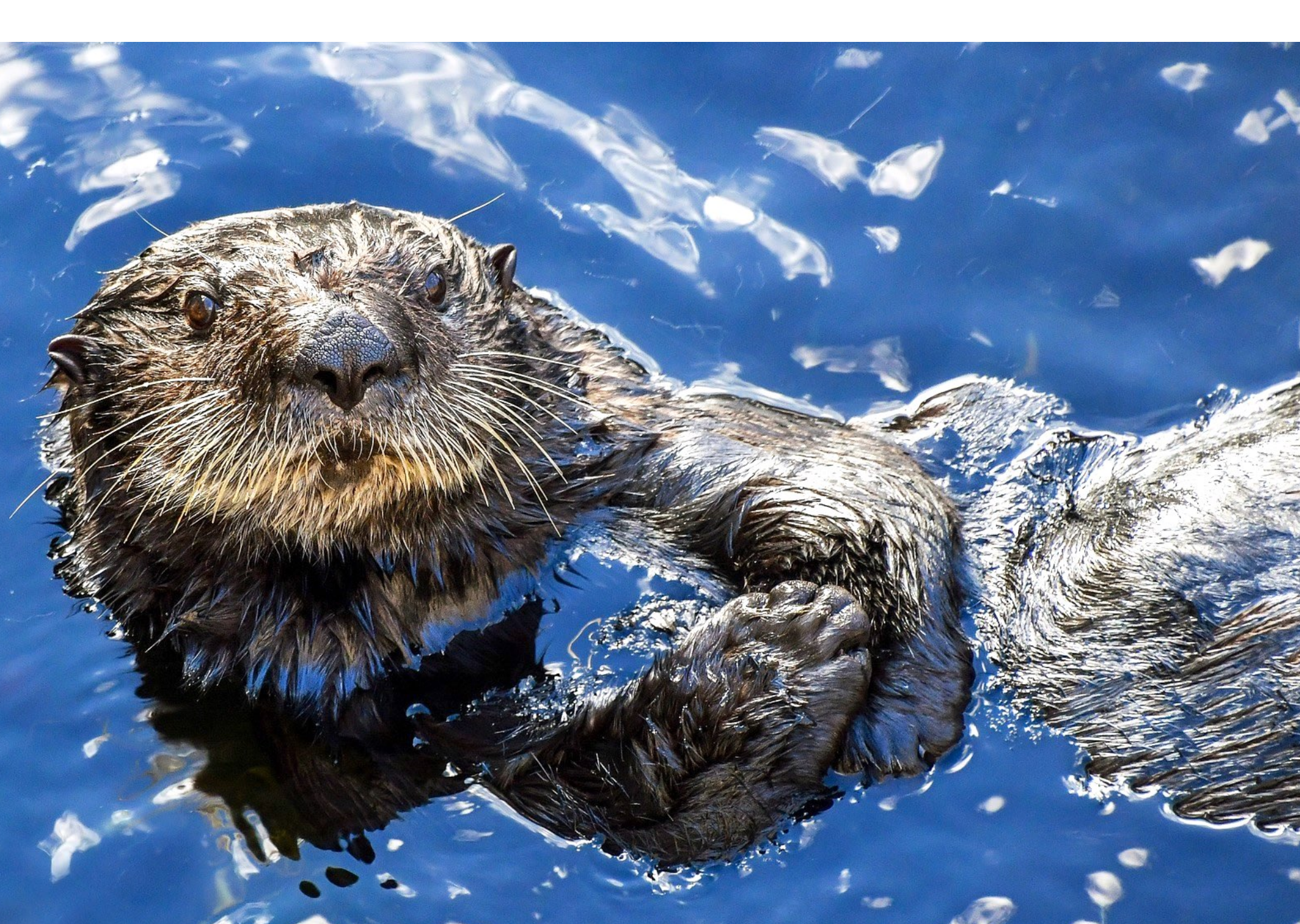




sea
otter



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More Animal Articles

Each animal is available individually and as part of a habitat set.



**Informational article (2 versions)
QR Code Research Page & Fact Sort**



Life Cycles
Informational article (2 versions)
QR Code Research Page & Fact Sort



[LINK TO ACCESS DIGITAL VERSION](#)

Teacher Notes

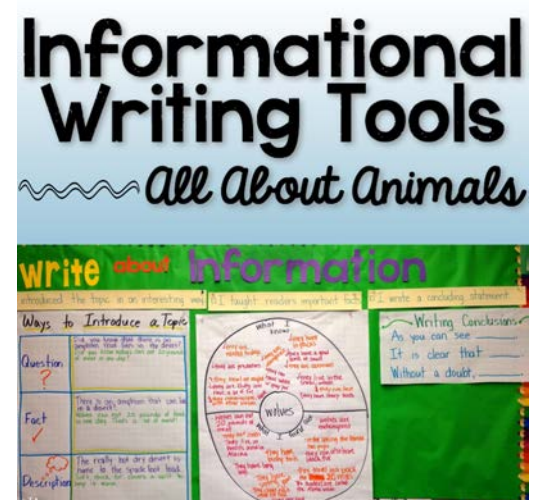
The following article is written at a second and third grade reading level. It follows a similar format to other Animal Articles and can be used for animal reports, informational reading, or text analysis. The sentence length, structure, and vocabulary have been controlled to make the text easier for young readers to understand.

The article comes in two formats: One full-page black and white article and one two-page article with colorful pictures. The articles have the same text. The only difference is the pictures.

The QR codes are for websites and videos that give additional information about the animal. If you find any links that do not work, please email me and I will fix it promptly. Videos are from a variety of websites, including YouTube (via SafeTube). There are two pages of QR Codes. One page has the YouTube links and the other page has the SafeTube links. Make sure you can access YouTube or SafeTube at your school.

The fact sort sheets contain facts taken directly from the text. I use them to help students organize information from the text when writing about the animals. Either use the provided categories or have students do an open sort and create their own categories.

I often use these articles during our informational writing unit. You can find more about this unit in this blog post.



Websites

Videos

Sea Otter

Sea Otter

The sea otter is part of the weasel family. It spends most of its time in the water but sometimes comes on land to rest. The sea otter lives in the Pacific Ocean along the coasts of North America and Asia. It prefers to live near kelp forests and estuaries.

Appearance

The sea otter is the smallest marine mammal and the furiest! It has the thickest fur of any mammal. In fact, it has several layers of dark-brown fur. The undercoat keeps its skin dry. The lighter-colored outer layer is made of hairs called guard hairs. The sea otter washes its fur with its teeth and paws. This keeps the fur waterproof and insulated against the cold.

Diet and Feeding

The sea otter is a top predator and keeps its ecosystem balanced. It's a carnivore and eats crabs, sea urchins, clams, mussels, and fish. It keeps the urchins from eating all the kelp in the kelp forests.

Offspring

The sea otter is the only otter to give birth in the water. The female is pregnant for about five months and gives birth to one pup. The pup stays very close to its mother for the first eight months as it learns to hunt and swim. The mother keeps it on her chest while she floats. The pup can't dive underwater yet because there is too much air trapped in its undercoat. The mother will wrap her pup in kelp when she hunts for food to keep it safe.

Predators and Threats

The sea otter has many natural predators, such as sharks, orcas, coyotes, brown bears, and eagles. People are the biggest threat to the sea otter. For many years, people hunted the sea otter for its fur. While the sea otter is protected by laws now, it is considered endangered.

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Text in Two Formats & QR Codes for Internet Research



undercoat



Sea Otter Vocabulary Activity

Fill in the matrix for each word.

Definition

a
u
l
a

k

Examples

Definition



Sea Otter Vocabulary Activity

Fill in the matrix for each word.

Definition

Characteristics

Examples

marine mammal

Non-Examples

Definition

Characteristics

Examples

undercoat

Non-Examples



carnivore

an animal that
eats other
animals



estuary

the mouth of
a large river
where the tide
meets the
stream



Sea Otter Vocabulary Activity

Fill in the matrix for each word.

Definition

Characteristics

Examples

insulate

Non-Examples

Definition

Characteristics

Examples

carnivore

Non-Examples



kelp forest

underwater
area with
large amount
of kelp, usually
along the
coast



insulate

marine mammal

Vocabulary Cards & Activities

Sea Otter Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

Picture

Word

Definition

insulate

carnivore

endangered

seriously at risk of extinction

Sea Otter Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

Picture

Word

Definition

pup

the mouth of a large river where the tide meets the stream

a baby seal or sea otter

underwater area with large amount of kelp, usually along the coast

Sea Otter Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

kelp forest

estuary

prevent the loss of heat

an animal's fur under the top layer of fur

marine mammal

undercoat

a mammal that depends on the ocean for food

an animal that eats other animals



Fact Sort

Sort the facts into categories

Name: _____

Attributes

looks, has, is

The pup can't dive underwater yet because there is too much air trapped in its undercoat.

It's a carnivore and eats crabs, sea urchins, clams, mussels, and fish.

The sea otter is part of the weasel family.

Actions

does, can

The mother keeps it on her chest while she floats.

The sea otter is the only otter to give birth in the water.

Environment

where it lives

It prefers to live near kelp forests and estuaries.

It spends most of its time in the water but sometimes comes on land to rest.

The sea otter spends a lot of time floating on its back.

It has two layers of dark-brown fur.

The mother will wrap her pup in kelp when she hunts for food to keep it safe.

The sea otter is a top predator and keeps its ecosystem balanced.

Sea otters live in groups.

The sea otter lives in the Pacific Ocean along the coasts of North America and Asia.

The pup stays very close to its mother for the first eight months as it learns to hunt and swim.

It keeps the urchins from eating all the kelp in the kelp forests.

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It then smashes its food on the rock to open the shell and eat the meat inside.

People are the biggest threat to the sea otter.

The lighter-colored outer layer is made of hairs called guard hairs.

The sea otter has many predators, such as coyotes, brown bears, and killer whales.

The sea otter is a marine mammal.

It has the thickest fur of any mammal.

It wraps itself in the kelp to stay in one place.

The undercoat keeps its skin dry.

While on its back, the sea otter will put a rock on its belly.

Fact Sort for Organizing Writing

Other Informatic

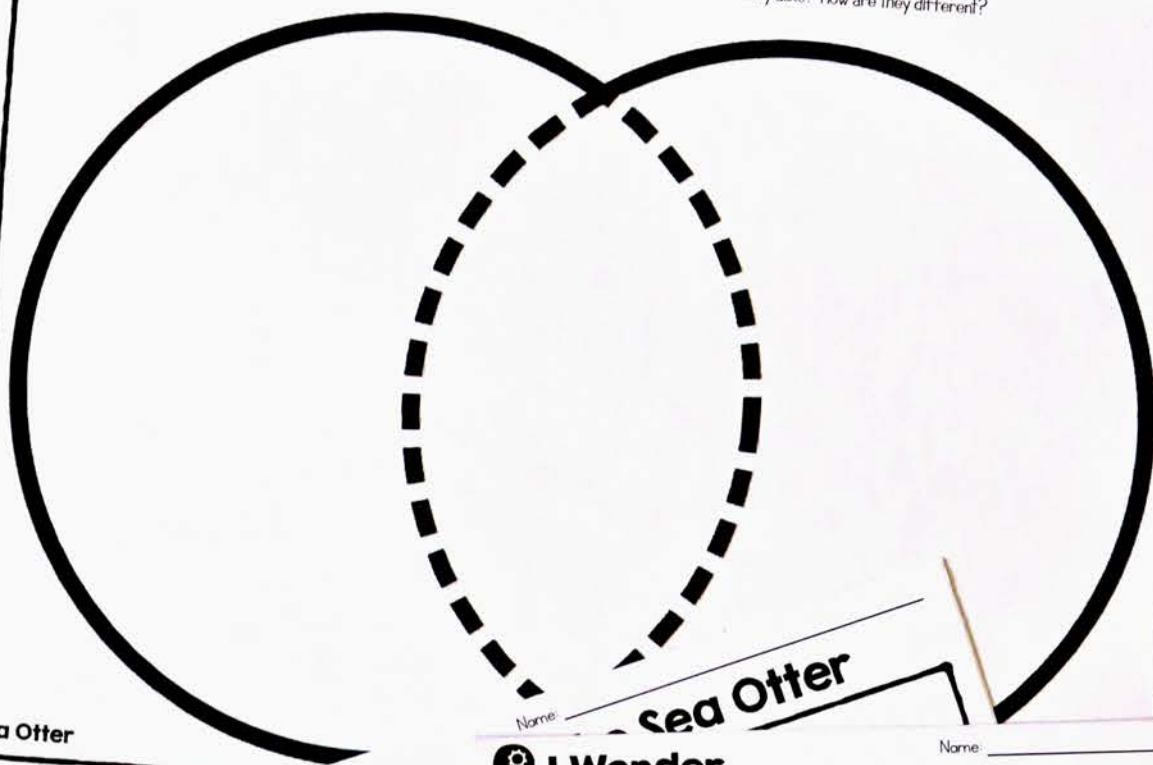
1. What does a sea otter look like?

2. Describe a sea otter's habitat.

3. What and how does a sea otter eat?

4. Describe

Choose another animal and compare the sea otter to that animal. How are they alike? How are they different?



Use the word b

threat	mammal
predator	carnivor

The sea otter spends most of its

to rest. The sea otter lives in the Pacific ~

to rest. The sea otter lives in the Pacific
and Asia. It prefers to live near _____ forests and act.

The sea otter is the smallest marine

The sea otter is the smallest. It has the thickest fur of any mammal. It has two

_____ keeps its skin dry. The light hairs called guard hairs. This keeps the fur waterproof.

The sea otter is a top _____

The sea otter is a top _____ and eats
balanced. It's a _____ a lot of time

balanced. It's a _____
mussels, and fish. The sea otter spends a lot of time f
_____ . While on its back,

its belly. It then _____ its food on the rock to
meat inside.

The sea otter is the only otter to give birth in the water close to its mother for the first eight months as it learns to mother will wrap her pup in kelp when she hunts for food to keep

There has many

Summary

Habitat

Appearance

Diet & Feeding

Sea Otter Note Taking Sheet

Appearance

Habitat

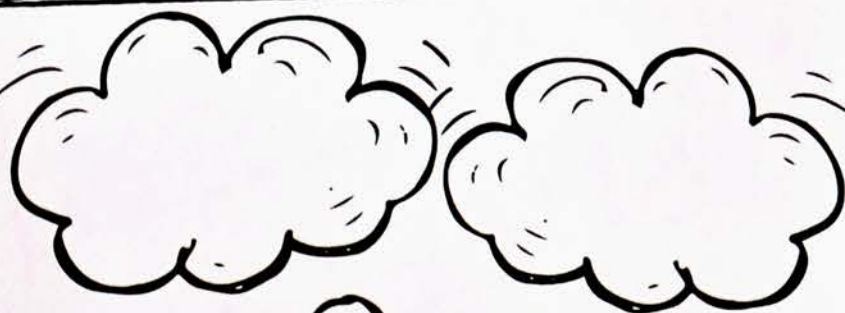
Diet & Feeding

Three Other Facts



I Wonder

Name _____



What questions do you still have about the sea otter?
Write them in the bubbles.

How can you find the answers to your questions?

Comprehension Activities

THANK YOU

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WHAT I have
LEARNED



WORD PROBLEMS	CURRICULUM MAP TEMPLATE	ADDITION & SUBTRACTION
<p>This is perfect for teachers whose students struggle solving word problems. Have you ever thought of removing the numbers from word problems? Great for first and second grades.</p>	<p>Do you struggle with long range planning? This curriculum map template will get you started on planning for your whole year!</p>	<p>Two-digit addition and subtraction can be tricky for students. Here is a sample of resources to help them explore different models and strategies.</p>
Name: <input type="text"/> Email*: <input type="text"/> Grade (choose the best fit): <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="YES! I WANT IT!"/>	Name: <input type="text"/> Email*: <input type="text"/> What Grade Do You Teach?*: <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="YES! I WANT IT!"/>	Name: <input type="text"/> Email*: <input type="text"/> Grade (choose the best fit): <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="YES! I WANT IT!"/>

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