Busy Sea Otters

NAME(S):
Busy Sea Otters Review

What did you learn?

Sea otters have body parts and behaviors that help them to survive.

- Sea otters have dense fur to keep them warm.
- Sea otters have sharp teeth for grabbing and flat teeth for chewing – just like we do!
- Sea otters use their front paws to groom themselves and to feel around for food.
- Sea otters use their tail and flippers for swimming and steering.
- Sea otters eat up to 25% of their body weight every day.
- The kelp forest is a home for sea otters.
- Our exhibit otters care for otter pups and so can you.

Students learn through conversations. You can use this observation guide to encourage students to observe the animals and habitats in our exhibits and engage in conversations based on those observations.

We suggest you provide your group with a few minutes at each exhibit just to look around before starting an activity.

Conservation Connections

Students, how can you care for otters?

- Keep your neighborhood clean since animals need a healthy home.
- Encourage your friends to recycle and put trash in a garbage can.
- Share what you learned about otters with others.
- Keep learning. Watch a sea otter feeding show. Play an interactive game. Watch the Sea Otter Cam on MontereyBayAquarium.org

Adults, how can you care for otters?

- Learn more about Monterey Bay Aquarium’s Sea Otter Program. Visit: MontereyBayAquarium.org
- Pack trashless lunches for your kids.
- Take reusable bags to the grocery store.
Kelp Forest

What can you find in the Kelp Forest?
Encourage students to look for these things. Check the circle as your group finds them. Two things aren’t there!

✅ = we saw it!

- Sea otter
- Kelp
- Rocks
- Abalone
- Sea urchin

DISCUSS: Some of these animals are not included in the kelp forest exhibit. Why do you think we didn’t include them?

Ocean’s Edge

Can you find these otter foods?
Help your group to find a few of these otter foods. Check the circle as your group finds them.

✅ = we saw it!

- California mussel
- Rock scallop
- Turban snail
- Sea urchin
- Abalone
- Decorator crab

PLAYFUL LEARNING: Ask your group to find their favorite otter food at one of the Touch Pools. How does it feel? What would an otter need to do to eat this animal? Why would it be important to leave this animal in its home when you visit the rocky shore?
Sea Otters

What body parts do sea otters have for survival?

Encourage your group to observe the otters by asking questions that get students to take a closer look!

Looking closely:

- How is otter fur different than your hair?
- How are otter paws similar to your hands?
- What body parts does an otter use to eat?
- What body parts does an otter use to swim through water?

**BONUS:** Count the otters. How many did you find?

Did you know all of the exhibit otters are female?

PLAYFUL LEARNING:
Sea otters are found right here in Monterey Bay. See if you can observe wild sea otter behaviors from our outside decks. Use the scopes for an up-close look!