

# BOOK



# Reports

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**3 ESL Class**

# Sea Otters

## Sea Otters



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### Where sea otters live

Sea otters live in the Pacific Ocean, off the coasts of the United States, Canada and Russia. A sea otter will spend most of its time in the sea. But its close relative, the river otter (seen below), often comes out on to the river banks.



### Growing up

By the time it is two months old, the pup has learned how to swim and live underwater. A mother sea otter teaches her pup where to find food and how to eat it. At six or seven months old, the pup can live alone.



### Food

These colorful sea urchins are a favourite food of sea otters. They eat many different sea creatures including snails like this crab.



### Keeping warm

Sea otters have a lot of very thick fur to keep them warm in the cold sea water. They do not have a layer of fat like the seal. Sea otters spend much time keeping their fur clean and glossy.



### Resting

Sea otters sometimes pull strands of kelp around themselves. This stops them floating away in the moving water while they rest or sleep. Sea otters sleep with their feet out of the water. This helps them to stay warm.



### Swimming

Sea otters swim using their back feet, which are like flippers. They can stay underwater for several minutes at a time. They do not often come on the land. When they do, they move awkwardly.



### Family life

Sea otters float closely together in the water. A group of sea otters is called a raft. Mother sea otters and their pups live together. Groups of male otters live in groups away from the females and pups.



### And dangers

The main danger for sea otters is oil pollution. If an otter's fur is covered with oil, the otter gets cold and cannot swim well enough to find food. Pollution from other dangerous chemicals can make the sea otters or their prey sick.



### Looking after the pup

A sea otter mother carries the pup on her stomach to keep it safe and warm. She feeds her pup on fat-rich milk to help it to grow quickly. Sea otters do not have many enemies. But a mother will try to protect her pup from creatures such as bald eagles.



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Excellent