

NATURALIST JOURNAL
CREATED FOR CABRILLO MARINE AQUARIUM
BY CATHERINE TERRONES, AQUARIUM EDUCATOR

SEA OTTER DISCOVERY JOURNAL:



MATERIALS:

- PAPER: LINED, UNLINED OR BOTH!
- PRINTER AND PRINTER PAPER - OPTIONAL IF YOU WANT TO PRINT JOURNAL DIRECTLY.
- PENCIL, AND COLORED PENCILS OR PENS
- VIDEOS OR SLIDESHOWS ABOUT SEA OTTERS (SEE CMA WEBSITE)*
- YOUR CURIOSITY!
- REFERENCE PHOTOS PROVIDED ON LAST PAGE OF JOURNAL*

OVERVIEW:

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT SEA OTTERS? WHAT DO YOU ALREADY KNOW? WHAT ARE QUESTIONS THAT ARISE FROM WATCHING OR LOOKING AT VIDEOS/PHOTOS OF SEA OTTERS AND THEIR

BEHAVIOR, HABITAT, OR PHYSIOLOGY (BODY SHAPE AND ADAPTATIONS)? WE WILL USE JOURNALING PROMPTS TO EXPLORE OUR QUESTIONS AND IDEAS, MAKING SOME SKETCHES ALONG THE WAY!

SKETCH A SEA OTTER:

WHAT DO YOU NOTICE THAT SEEMS UNIQUE ABOUT THE BODY, SHAPE, HANDS, BACK LEGS, TAIL, MOUTH OF A SEA OTTER? YOU CAN DO A VERY SIMPLE SKETCH OR MORE DETAILED, IT'S UP TO YOU. LABEL YOUR SKETCH WITH IMPORTANT INFORMATION THAT PERHAPS YOUR SKETCH HINTS AT, OR IT'S HARD TO CAPTURE IN DRAWING. AND MAKE NOTE OF YOUR OBSERVATIONS AND DISCOVERIES WHILE LOOKING MORE CLOSELY AT THE OTTER. USE THIS SPACE OR YOUR OWN JOURNAL PAPER:

ZOOM-IN:

PICK AN AREA OF FEATURE TO FOCUS ON. MAYBE IT'S THAT INTERESTING MOUTH OR FRONT ARMS. MAYBE IT'S THEIR EYES, OR HEAD. PICK AN AREA OF FEATURE TO ZOOM-IN AND SKETCH IN MORE DETAIL, MAKE NOTES AND DESCRIBE. ALSO, REMEMBER TO NOTE YOUR QUESTIONS, WHAT YOU WONDER, OR WHAT YOU NOTICE DURING YOUR SKETCH. SKETCH IN YOUR JOURNAL OR USE THE SPACE HERE:

FEEDING:

WATCH A VIDEO OR PHOTO SERIES OF A SEA OTTER FEEDING. WHAT DO YOU NOTICE? DESCRIBE AND SKETCH WHAT YOU NOTICE HERE AND WRITE DOWN QUESTIONS OR IDEAS YOU HAVE:

SKETCH A FAVORITE SEA OTTER FOOD:

WHAT FOODS WAS THE OTTER EATING? PICK ONE ANIMAL / FOOD AND DESCRIBE THAT ANIMAL BETTER:
DID IT HAVE SPIKES, A HARD SHELL? HOW DID THE OTTER GET ITS FOOD AND GET AROUND THE PREY
ANIMALS PROTECTION. SKETCH AND DESCRIBE THAT PREY ANIMAL HERE:

HABITAT ROLE:

THE KELP FOREST IS AN IMPORTANT PLACE FOR MANY ANIMALS. WHY IS THE SEA OTTER AN APEX PREDATOR? CAN YOU DESCRIBE IN DETAIL THE BEHAVIORS AND QUALITIES, THE EFFECT OF THE SEA OTTER ON ITS ENVIRONMENT THAT MAKE IT AN APEX PREDATOR? YOU MIGHT ALSO SKETCH A SEA OTTER FOOD CHAIN AND LABEL AND DESCRIBE YOUR DRAWING.

WHAT ARE SOME PERCEIVED PROBLEMS THAT YOU CAN IMAGINE IF YOU REMOVE THIS APEX PREDATOR FROM A KELP FOREST HABITAT OR REGION?

LEARNING MORE BY ASKING QUESTIONS:

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO LEARN, UNDERSTAND OR INVESTIGATE FURTHER? MAKE A LIST OF IDEAS AND QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE AS A RESULT OF YOUR JOURNAL AND OBSERVATION. YOU CAN ALSO MAKE NOTES ABOUT POSSIBLE EVIDENCE OR IDEAS THAT EXPLAIN SOME ASPECTS OF YOUR QUESTIONS.

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* FIND REFERENCE PHOTOS ON THE NEXT PAGE



PHOTO CREDIT ALFONSO MONTIEL



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