



# Sea Otters — Clever Swimmers of the Cold Sea

Reading Worksheet — Level C | [tahricteaches.com](http://tahricteaches.com)

A sea otter is a small, furry **animal** that lives in the ocean. It makes its home in the **cold sea** near the coast of North America and Asia. A sea otter has a round face, long whiskers, and very thick fur to keep it warm.

Sea otters love to eat. They dive down to find crabs, clams, and **fish** to eat. A hungry otter can eat a lot of **food** every day — almost one-third of its own body weight! Otters use rocks to crack open hard shells before they eat.

A **mother** otter takes very good care of her **baby**. She carries her baby on her stomach while she floats on her back. The baby otter cannot swim at first, so it rests on its mother and naps in the sun.

Sea otters do not always live alone. They often float together in a big **group** called a raft. A raft can have just a few otters, or many, many otters all resting together on top of the water.

Sea otters are very **smart** animals. They use tools, like rocks, to open their food. Otters also work hard to stay **clean**. They rub and roll in the water for hours to keep their thick fur neat, warm, and dry.

## A. Vocabulary

- |                |                                                                  |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. animal ____ | a. the things that people and animals eat to live                |
| 2. cold ____   | b. a number of people or animals together                        |
| 3. sea ____    | c. having a very low temperature; not warm                       |
| 4. fish ____   | d. able to think well and learn quickly                          |
| 5. food ____   | e. free from dirt; not dirty                                     |
| 6. mother ____ | f. a female parent of a baby or child                            |
| 7. baby ____   | g. a very young animal or child                                  |
| 8. group ____  | h. a living thing that can move and breathe, but is not a person |
| 9. smart ____  | i. the salty water that covers much of the Earth                 |
| 10. clean ____ | j. an animal that lives in water and has fins and gills          |



### B. True or False

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1. A sea otter is a kind of fish. \_\_\_\_
2. Sea otters live in the cold sea. \_\_\_\_
3. Sea otters eat crabs, clams, and fish. \_\_\_\_
4. Sea otters never eat any food. \_\_\_\_
5. A mother otter carries her baby on her stomach. \_\_\_\_
6. Baby otters can swim very well as soon as they are born. \_\_\_\_
7. A group of otters floating together is called a raft. \_\_\_\_
8. Sea otters use rocks to help them eat. \_\_\_\_
9. Sea otters never clean their fur. \_\_\_\_



### C. Fill in the Blanks

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**Word Bank:** fish, food, mother, group, clean

1. Sea otters dive down to find crabs, clams, and \_\_\_\_\_ to eat.
2. A hungry otter needs a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ every day.

3. A \_\_\_\_\_ otter carries her baby while she floats on her back.
4. Many otters resting together are called a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Otters roll in the water to stay \_\_\_\_\_ and keep their fur neat.

#### **D. Comprehension Questions**

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1. Where do sea otters live, and what do they look like?
2. What do sea otters eat, and how do they get their food?
3. How does a mother otter take care of her baby?
4. What is a raft, and why do otters float together?
5. Why do sea otters spend so much time keeping their fur clean?

#### **E. Discussion Questions**

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1. Have you ever seen a sea otter, in real life or in a picture? What did you think?
2. What other animals use tools, like the sea otter uses rocks?
3. Why do you think it is important to keep the ocean clean for sea otters?



# Answer Key

## Sea Otters — Clever Swimmers of the Cold Sea

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**A. Vocabulary:** 1-h, 2-c, 3-i, 4-j, 5-a, 6-f, 7-g, 8-b, 9-d, 10-e

**B. True/False:** 1-F, 2-T, 3-T, 4-F, 5-T, 6-F, 7-T, 8-T, 9-F

**C. Fill Blanks:** 1-fish, 2-food, 3-mother, 4-group, 5-clean

**D. Comprehension:**

1. A sea otter is a small, furry animal that lives in the cold sea near the coast of North America and Asia, with a round face, long whiskers, and thick fur.
2. Sea otters eat crabs, clams, and fish. They dive down to find food and use rocks to crack open hard shells.
3. A mother otter carries her baby on her stomach while she floats on her back, and the baby rests and naps on top of her.
4. A raft is a big group of otters floating together on the water; otters float in rafts to rest together.
5. Sea otters rub and roll in the water for hours to keep their thick fur clean, warm, and dry.

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