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June 17, Kirsten Wahlquist shutterstock With long, sleek, streamlined bodies and webbed feet, otters are born swimmers. They are found in waterways on every continent except Australia and Antarctica. They are often seen floating on their backs. Their thick fur traps air and makes them buoyant. Unfortunately, the fur is highly coveted, and otters have been hunted almost to extinction in many places. They come in many sizes. The largest otter is the giant otter. It grows from 4. This distinction goes to the sea otter. Males weigh up to 90 lbs. The smallest otter is the Asian small-clawed otter, which grows up to 2. Habitat Otters are found almost all over the world and in many wet habitats, such freshwater rivers, lakes, oceans, coastlines and marshes. Most otters live in dens " built by other animals, such as beavers " that are dug into the ground that have many channels and dry inner chambers. The sea otter, however, rarely comes ashore, according to the San Diego Zoo. Sea otters are found in two areas: The Pacific coasts of Russia and Alaska, and along the central California coast. A river otter in England. Habits Otters are very social creatures. A group of otters is called a raft, according to the San Diego Zoo. They are also nocturnal and hunt at night. They also love to play. They like to slide off embankments into the water, wrestle, chase their tails and participate in other fun games. They are also very curious and like to investigate new things. Otters spend a good part of their day grooming themselves. They clean their fur by biting it and scratching it against rocks, or rubbing it on logs or grass. They actually have two layers of fur: Diet Otters are carnivores, which means they eat meat. Sea otters eat a wide range of marine animals, including mussels, clams, urchins, abalone, crabs, snails and about 40 other marine species, equaling approximately 25 percent of their weight in food each day, according to Defenders of Wildlife. River otters eat mostly frogs, crabs, crayfish, fish and mollusks. They also eat small mammals and birds. Offspring A female otter has a gestation period of two months for smaller species and five months for sea otters. She will give birth to one to five offspring, through usually only two babies are born at once. Sea otters are the only otters that give birth in water. Other otters give birth in dens. Otter babies are called pups. They are born weighing only 4. Pups have sealed eyes that open at around 1 month old. At 2 months, pups start to swim. By 2 to 5 years old they will be ready to make their own pups. Otter live to around 12 years old in the wild, and longer in captivity. Sea otters convene in a kelp bed near Kodiak Island, Alaska.

Chapter 2 : How Many Sea Otters Are Left In The World? - Sea Otter Population

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They are often mistaken for beavers though. They live mainly on land that is very close to bodies of water. They hunt for food both in the water such as fish and then also land creatures including small reptiles. They are small animals that average about four feet in length and up to 30 pounds. There are 13 identified species of Otters known. Most people find the Otter to be a friendly looking creature. However, they can bite and they can fight with their tails so if you are provoking an attack then you have been warned. They are found in very diverse locations and even small bodies of water. The future for some of the species is in danger though due to hunting and due to the destruction of their natural habitat. For small creatures though they do eat quite a bit. When a female is nursing she will consume even more than that. About 5 hours a day are spent searching for and consuming food. Otters have to be highly adaptable too so that they can find the food sources out there. Top Otter Facts Otters are the smallest of all marine mammals in the world. An Otter can remain under water for up to 4 minutes. More Otter Facts! The anatomy of the Otter allows it to do very well both on land and in the water. This is one of the reasons why researchers feel it has been able to adapt to changes in the environment so well. Most Otters are very social and they have a great time with each other. They are quite playful so people tend to want to observe them. Some of the common activities include climbing up hills and sliding down them as well as wrestling with each other. They also can create tools from items in their environment that they play with and that they use for protection. Since Otters live in so many different locations, it is easy for them to be observed. Still, there is more research that needs to be done about their abilities to adapt, survival skills, threats from humans and other animals, and their communication with each other. There are some Otters in captivity and they tend to do just fine. Plenty of research information has been collected from those in captivity. Of course that has created so tension though with various animal rights groups. The efforts over the years to protect the Otters have mostly been successful though. Several species remains in real danger right now while a handful of others are considered to be vulnerable. With plenty of conservation efforts in place right now though there is a very good chance that we will see these creatures surviving well into the future.

Chapter 3 : Otter (Lutra Canadensis) - Animals - A-Z Animals

They are small animals that average about four feet in length and up to 30 pounds. There are 13 identified species of Otters known. Most people find the Otter to be a friendly looking creature.

In the British Isles, they were common as recently as the 1800s, but became rare in many areas due to the use of chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides, habitat loss and water pollution they remained relatively common in parts of Scotland and Ireland. Population levels reached a low point in the 1900s, but are now recovering strongly. The UK Biodiversity Action Plan envisages the re-establishment of otters by in all the UK rivers and coastal areas they inhabited in Roadkill deaths have become one of the significant threats to the success of their re-establishment. North American river otter Main article: North American river otter North American river otters The North American river otter *Lontra canadensis* became one of the major animals hunted and trapped for fur in North America after European contact. River otters eat a variety of fish and shellfish, as well as small land mammals and birds. In some areas, this is a protected species, and some places have otter sanctuaries that help sick and injured otters to recover. Their historic range included shallow waters of the Bering Strait and Kamchatka, and as far south as Japan. Sea otters have about 26,000 hairs per square centimeters of skin, [14] a rich fur for which humans hunted them almost to extinction. By the time the Fur Seal Treaty gave them protection, so few sea otters remained that the fur trade had become unprofitable. Sea otters eat shellfish and other invertebrates especially clams, abalone, and sea urchins. Because the otter food source is easier to excavate from rocky-bottom habitats, as opposed to soft-bottom habitats, more otters tend to live in waters with rocky bottoms with access to shallow-burrowing prey. They grow to 1. Although once near extinction, they have begun to spread again, from remnant populations in California and Alaska. Unlike most marine mammals such as seals or whales, sea otters do not have a layer of insulating blubber. They spend most of their time in the water, whereas other otters spend much of their time on land. Giant otter Main article: Giant otter Giant otter The giant otter *Pteronura brasiliensis* inhabits South America, especially the Amazon river basin, but is becoming increasingly rare due to poaching, habitat loss, and the use of mercury and other toxins in illegal alluvial gold mining. This gregarious animal grows to a length of up to 1. Relation with humans Sign warning drivers in Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides to beware otters on the road Hunting Otters have been hunted for their pelts from at least the 1800s, although it may have begun well before then. Early hunting methods included darts, arrows, nets and snares but later, traps were set on land and guns used. There has been a long history of otter pelts being worn around the world. In China it was standard for the royalty to wear robes made from them. People that were financially high in status also wore them. The tails of otters were often made into items for men to wear. These included hats and belts. Even some types of mittens for children have been made from the fur of otters. In such hunts, the hunters notched their poles after every kill. The prized trophy that hunters would take from the otters was the penis bone, which would be worn as a tie-pin. This decline in populations is due to hunting to supply the demand for skins. Otter fishing For many generations, fishermen in southern Bangladesh have bred smooth-coated otters and used them to chase fish into their nets. Once a widespread practice, passed down from father to son throughout many communities in Asia, this traditional use of domesticated wild animals is still in practice in the district of Narail, Bangladesh. In some Native American cultures, otters are considered totem animals. In Japanese folklore, they fool humans in the same way as foxes kitsune and tanuki. In the Noto region, Ishikawa Prefecture, there are stories where they shapeshift into beautiful women or children wearing checker-patterned clothing. If a human attempts to speak to one, they will answer "oraya" and then answer "araya," and if anybody asks them anything, they say cryptic things like "kawai. It is said that those possessed by otters lose their stamina as if their soul has been extracted. They perform pranks like extinguishing the fire of the paper lanterns of people who walk on roads at night, shapeshifting into a beautiful woman of 18-19 years of age and fooling people, or tricking people and making them try to engage in sumo against a rock or a tree stump. Resolving relationships, tempo and biogeographic history of a mammalian adaptive radiation". Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology.

Chapter 4 : Tigers 6Pk () - Dominie World of Animals

Ideal for children who wish to know more about various species of animals: their characteristics, their behaviors, and their young. A valuable resource that assists students in gathering and sorting up-to-date, researched, factual information at an appropriate reading level.

See Article History Alternative Title: Lutrinae Otter, subfamily Lutrinae , any of 13 or 14 species of semiaquatic mammals that belong to the weasel family Mustelidae and are noted for their playful behaviour. The otter has a lithe and slender body with short legs, a strong neck, and a long flattened tail that helps propel the animal gracefully through water. Swimming ability is further enhanced in most species by four webbed feet. Two species are marine, with the others living predominantly in fresh water. Otters range in size from 3 kg to 6 kg. Fur colour is various shades of brown with lighter underparts. Most river otters are opportunistic, feeding on whatever is most easily obtained. Diet often varies seasonally or locally, depending on which prey is available. River otters hunt visually while chasing fish, but they use their manual dexterity to dislodge crabs and crayfish from under rocks. Sensory hairs on the snout called vibrissae also assist by sensing water turbulence. After being captured in the teeth or forefeet, prey is consumed either in the water or on shore. River otters hunt more effectively in shallow water than in deep water, and, although they are proficient swimmers, all prefer slow-swimming species of fish. African clawless otters *Aonyx capensis* and Congo clawless otters *A. canaliculatus*. Their front feet are handlike and partially webbed. North American river otters *Lutra canadensis* explore a melting river and catch fish. Most travel is aquatic, but river otters can venture swiftly overland between bodies of water. They typically follow the shortest route possible and often establish much-used trails. While in the water, they constantly search features such as logjams and deepwater pools for prey. To rest, otters seek refuge in underground holes, rock crevices, beaver lodges, cavities in root systems, or simply dense vegetation along the shoreline. When not resting or eating, river otters can often be seen eagerly sliding down mud or snow banks. Many species establish regular latrine sites along the shores of lakes or rivers. Such stations may facilitate communication between individuals. Litter size ranges from one to five. Young otters pups may fall prey to large raptors , and various carnivores may kill adults traveling on land. In warmer regions crocodiles and alligators are threats. However, most mortality results from human activities, in the form of road kills, drownings in fishnets, destruction as pests around fishing areas, or trapping for their fur. Saltwater otters Two otter species are strictly marine: Both rely exclusively on marine prey, although the sea otter can be found much farther offshore; the marine otter stays within about metres feet of the shore. Pburka Sea otters are well adapted to marine life. The front and back feet are fully webbed; large lungs allow long dives and provide buoyancy and thick fur provides insulation. Sea otters can also drink salt water and thus can remain at sea for several days at a time. Sea otters are usually solitary but are sometimes seen in groups—gatherings of up to 2, have been observed along the coast of Alaska. At night, sea otters may choose either to sleep on land or simply to rest afloat near beds of kelp. They feed mainly on sea urchins , crabs , and various shellfish. Fish are also eaten. Captured prey is eaten at sea while the otter swims on its back. Rocks are typically used to break open crabs and shellfish, whereas sea urchins are crushed with the forefeet and teeth. Sea otter predation on the herbivorous urchins genus *Strongylocentrotus* enables kelp forests and the fish associated with them to flourish. However, large numbers of sea otters can deplete shellfish populations , conflicting with fisheries for crabs, clams , and abalones. Females give birth in water to only one young, which remains dependent on the mother until six to eight months of age. Sharks and killer whales eat sea otters on occasion. The marine otter is really a freshwater otter that has learned to occupy marine environments in South America. This small 3–6 kg [6]. It is mostly solitary, and only rarely do groups of more than three animals occur. Marine otters occupy the intertidal zone that covers the first 1–2 metres roughly 3–6 feet of coastal water and about 30 metres feet inland. They feed on crustaceans such as crabs and shrimp , as well as mollusks and fish. Interestingly, marine otters do not consume sea urchins as extensively as do sea otters, even though sea urchins often are common where marine otters live. Unlike sea otters, marine otters shelter in rock cavities for daytime rest and parturition. Conservation and classification Nearly all

species of otters face increasing threat as urbanization and logging continue. North American river otters *L. Heavy* metals and contaminants such as mercury and PCBs accumulate in otter tissues and in time impair both reproduction and survival. Pollution also affects fish populations on which otters often depend. Conservation of remaining wetlands and restoration of water quality are currently the most important steps toward ensuring the future of otters. Most authorities maintain that 13 species of otters make up the subfamily Lutrinae. The status of the Congo clawless otter remains a subject of debate, however, with most researchers considering the animal to be a subspecies of the African small-clawed otter *Aonyx capensis* and giving it the taxonomic name *A. Others* claim that the Congo clawless otter is a valid species and have given it the taxonomic name *A. The* classification below assumes that Lutrinae is made up of 13 species. Subfamily Lutrinae otters 13 species in 7 genera found on all continents except Antarctica. Lutrinae is a subfamily of Mustelidae. Genus *Lontra* river otters 4 species found in the Americas. Genus *Lutra* 3 species found in Africa and Eurasia. Genus *Hydrictis* speckle-throated otter 1 species found in sub-Saharan Africa. Genus *Enhydra* sea otter 1 species found in North America. Genus *Lutrogale* smooth-coated otter 1 species found in Southern Asia. Genus *Pteronura* giant otter.

Chapter 5 : North American river otter - Wikipedia

sea otters marine mammals, mammals of south america volume 1 mammals of south america volume 1, otters dominie world of animals, the incredible sea mammals childrens science nature pdf, lashing handbook for marine movements lifting handbook for marine movements, reeds.

Was this real life? From the moment we arrived at Nurtured by Nature we were welcomed into their amazing home. The animals are incredibly well taken care of and loved, plus everyone was knowledgeable and passionate! This was truly one of the greatest days of my life. The hands on experience is something that I will never forget! Nurtured by Nature works with some amazing organizations, including Make a Wish, further proving how remarkable the people at this phenomenal facility are! I would absolutely go back again, and I have already referred quite a few friends should go as well. Such wonderful animals they get to see , experience and interact with. The Otters were so much fun and so playful it definitely was one of my biggest dreams to come true. The pool is heated, and the staff cannot be nicer. Thank you, it really was an amazing experience and I will definitely be back to see you guys and the Otters! What an incredible experience. They went above and beyond to make sure Cassidy as well as the rest of the family had the most amazing experience! They are clearly committed to the care of their animals and want to share their love and knowledge of each of them with us. Thank you again to Wendy, Kevin, Brittani, and Dave from the bottom of my heart. A true dream come true and an item checked off the bucket list. So thankful to have been able to be part of something so unique. The animals are treated like part of the family and are extremely well taken care of. I enjoyed interacting and learning about all of the creatures. The highlight of the day was getting a kiss from one of the otters! I will treasure these memories forever. Thank you for opening your home to us, and for all that you do for the animals and children.

Chapter 6 : Graham Meadows | Open Library

Otters are carnivorous mustelids in the Lutrinae subfamily. There are 13 extant species of otter around the world, one of which is native to the UK. This species is the most widely distributed of all the otters, ranging through Eurasia up to the Arctic Circle, from Ireland to Kamchatka, and south.

The rhinarium is bare, with an obtuse, triangular projection. Eyes of the animal are small and placed anteriorly. A short, broad rostrum for exhaling and a long, broad cranium define the relatively flat skull. The pelage has a high luster and varies from light brown to black. The throat, chin, and lips are grayer than the rest of the body. Fur of senescent river otters may become white-tipped, and rare albinos may occur. A clinical reduction in size may exist from north to south along the Pacific coast, but not from east to west. Note the inconspicuous ears. The North American river otter is physically well-equipped for aquatic life. The ears are short, the neck is the same diameter as the head, the legs are short and powerful, the toes are fully webbed, and the tail one-third of body length is tapered. These qualities give the North American river otter a streamlined profile in water, but reduce agility on land. The smell and hearing abilities of the North American river otter are acute. The North American river otter has a delicate sense of touch in the paws in addition to great dexterity. North American river otters have transparent nictitating membranes to protect their eyes while swimming. Reduced lobulation of the lungs is presumed to be adaptive for underwater swimming. In addition, the length of the trachea of the North American river otter is intermediate between that of terrestrial carnivores and marine mammals. The mean tracheal length of the North American river otter is A shorter trachea may improve air exchange and increase lung ventilation in diving mammals. Also, North American river otters have large molars used for crushing hard objects, such as the shells of molluscs. Additional premolars may be present. North American river otter at the River dart Behavior[edit] North American river otters are active year-round, and are most active at night and during crepuscular hours. They become much more nocturnal in the spring, summer, and fall seasons, and more diurnal during winter. They may migrate as a result of food shortages or environmental conditions, but they do not migrate annually. The tail, which is stout and larger in surface area than the limbs, is used for stability while swimming and for short bursts of rapid propulsion. It must remain in motion to maintain its position at the surface. Note the long, tapered tail. On land, the North American river otter can walk, run, bound, or slide. Foot falls during walking and running follow the sequence of left limb, right limb, right limb, left limb. During walking, the limbs are moved in a plane parallel to the long axis of the body. Bounding is the result of simultaneous lifting of the limbs off the ground. As the front feet make contact with the ground, the back feet are lifted and land where the front paws first contacted the ground, producing a pattern of tracks in pairs typical of most mustelids. Sliding occurs mostly on even surfaces of snow or ice, but can also occur on grassy slopes and muddy banks. Sliding across snow and ice is a rapid and efficient means of travel, and otters traveling over mountain passes, between drainages, or descending from mountain lakes often slide continuously for several hundred meters. Rear leg paddling enables continuous sliding where gravity is an insufficient or an opposing force. Daily movements of yearling males and females in Idaho averaged 4. Daily movements of family groups averaged 4. Both males and family groups travel drastically less during winter. Otter play mostly consists of wrestling with conspecifics. Chasing is also a common game. North American river otters rely upon play to learn survival skills such as fighting and hunting. Several North American river otters may even cooperate while fishing. Small fish are eaten at the surface, but larger ones are taken to the shore to be consumed. Live fish are typically eaten from the head. North American river otters dry themselves and uphold the insulative quality of their fur by frequent rubbing and rolling on grass, bare ground, and logs. A highly active predator, the North American river otter has adapted to hunting in water, and eats aquatic and semiaquatic animals. The vulnerability and seasonal availability of prey animals mainly governs its food habits and prey choices. For instance, an Alberta, Canada study involved the collection and analysis of 1, samples of North American river otter scats collected during each season. Crustaceans may even be consumed more than fish. When a copious supply of food dwindles or other prey becomes available, North American otters either transfer to a new location or convert their dietary

choices to the most adequate prey. Likewise, the potential predatory impact of otters may be considerable whenever fish are physically confined most commonly in smaller ponds offering sparse cover or other escape options. Even in larger bodies of water, they may take disproportional advantage of any seasonal concentrations of fish when and where only very limited areas of suitable spawning, low-flow, or over-wintering habitat may exist. Even such fast-swimming species as trout become lethargic in extremely cold water, with a commensurate increase in their vulnerability to predation. As such, careful consideration of any threatened, endangered, or fish species of special interest is warranted prior to reintroduction of otters to a watershed. Although other prey species are of temporary significance to the North American river otter, the deciding factor whether the North American river otter can establish itself as a permanent resident of one location is the year-round availability of fish. The North American river otter is more social than most mustelids. In all habitats, their basic social group is the family, consisting of an adult female and her progeny. Adult males also commonly establish enduring social groupings, some documented to comprise as many as 17 individuals. In coastal areas, males may remain gregarious even during the estrous period of females. Family groups may include helpers, which can be made up of unrelated adults, yearlings, or juveniles. Male North American river otters do not seem to be territorial, and newly dispersing males may join established male groups. North American river otters living in groups hunt and travel together, use the same dens, resting sites, and latrines, and perform allogrooming. In freshwater systems, groups occur most often in autumn and during early winter. From mid-winter through the breeding season, adult females move and den alone. River otters are not territorial, but individual North American river otters of different groups portray mutual avoidance. Home ranges of males are larger than those of females, and both sexes exhibit intra- and intersexual overlap of their domains. Scent marking is imperative for intergroup communication. The North American river otter scent-marks with feces, urine, and possibly anal sac secretions. Musk from the scent glands may also be secreted when otters are frightened or angry. When at play or traveling, they sometimes give off low, purring grunts. The alarm call, given when shocked or distressed by potential danger, is an explosive snort, made by expelling air through the nostrils. North American river otters also may use a birdlike chirp for communication over longer distances, but the most common sound heard among a group of otters is low-frequency chuckling. Males are sexually mature at two years of age. Copulation lasts from 16 to 73 minutes and may occur in water or on land. During the breeding, the male grabs the female by the neck with his teeth. Copulation is vigorous, and is interrupted by periods of rest. Female estrus lasts about a month per year, [42] and true gestation lasts 61 to 63 days. Because the North American river otters delay implantation for at least eight months, the interval between copulation and parturition can reach 10 to 12 months. The female otters do not dig their own dens; instead, they rely on other animals, such as beavers, to provide suitable environments to raise their offspring. When the mothers have established their domains, they give birth to several kits. The kits open their eyes after 30 to 38 days. The newborns start playing at five to six weeks, and begin consuming solid food at 9 to 10 weeks. Weaning occurs at 12 weeks, and females provide solid food for their progeny until 37 to 38 weeks have transpired. The maximum weight and length of both sexes are attained at three to four years of age. When the pups are about two months old and their coats grow in, their mother introduces them to the water. North American river otters are natural swimmers and, with parental supervision, they acquire the skills necessary to swim. Prior to the arrival of the next litter, the North American river otter yearlings venture out in search of their own home ranges. The North American river otter is found throughout North America, inhabiting inland waterways and coastal areas in Canada, the Pacific Northwest, the Atlantic states, and the Gulf of Mexico. North American river otters also currently inhabit coastal regions throughout the United States and Canada. North American river otters also inhabit the forested regions of the Pacific coast in North America. The species is also present throughout Alaska, including the Aleutian Islands, and the north slope of the Brooks Range. However, urbanization and pollution instigated reductions in range area. Reintroduction projects have expanded their distribution in recent years, especially in the Midwestern United States. Since their reintroduction to Kentucky in the early 90s, they have recovered to the point that a trapping season was started in, and the species is now found in all major waterways. In addition, riverine habitats in interior regions supported smaller, but practical, otter populations. Although commonly called a "river otter", the

North American river otter is found in a wide variety of aquatic habitats, both freshwater and coastal marine, including lakes, rivers, inland wetlands, coastal shorelines, marshes, and estuaries. It can tolerate a great range of temperature and elevations. However, it is sensitive to pollution, and will disappear from tainted areas. An entrance, which may be under water or above ground, leads to a nest chamber lined with leaves, grass, moss, bark, and hair. North American river otters also may use hollow trees or logs, undercut banks, rock formations, backwater sloughs, and flood debris.

Chapter 7 : The World of Animals: Otters - The Perissos Life

Like many concepts in the book world, "series" is a somewhat fluid and contested notion. A good rule of thumb is that series have a conventional name and are intentional creations, on the part of the author or publisher.

Chapter 8 : Pearson Education: List of Books by Author Pearson Education

The otter is held to be a clean animal belonging to Ahura Mazda in Zoroastrian belief, and taboo to kill. [25] In popular Korean mythology, it is told that people who see an otter (soodal) will attract 'rain clouds' for the rest of their lives.

Chapter 9 : Sea Otter Live Web Cam at the Monterey Bay Aquarium

This is a lesson about otters. READ ALOUD: Otters Under Water by Jim Arnosky (APL) READ ALOUD: River Otter at Autumn Lane by Laura Gates Galvin (HL) READ ALOUD: Otter on his Own: The Story of a Sea Otter by Doe Boyle (HL).