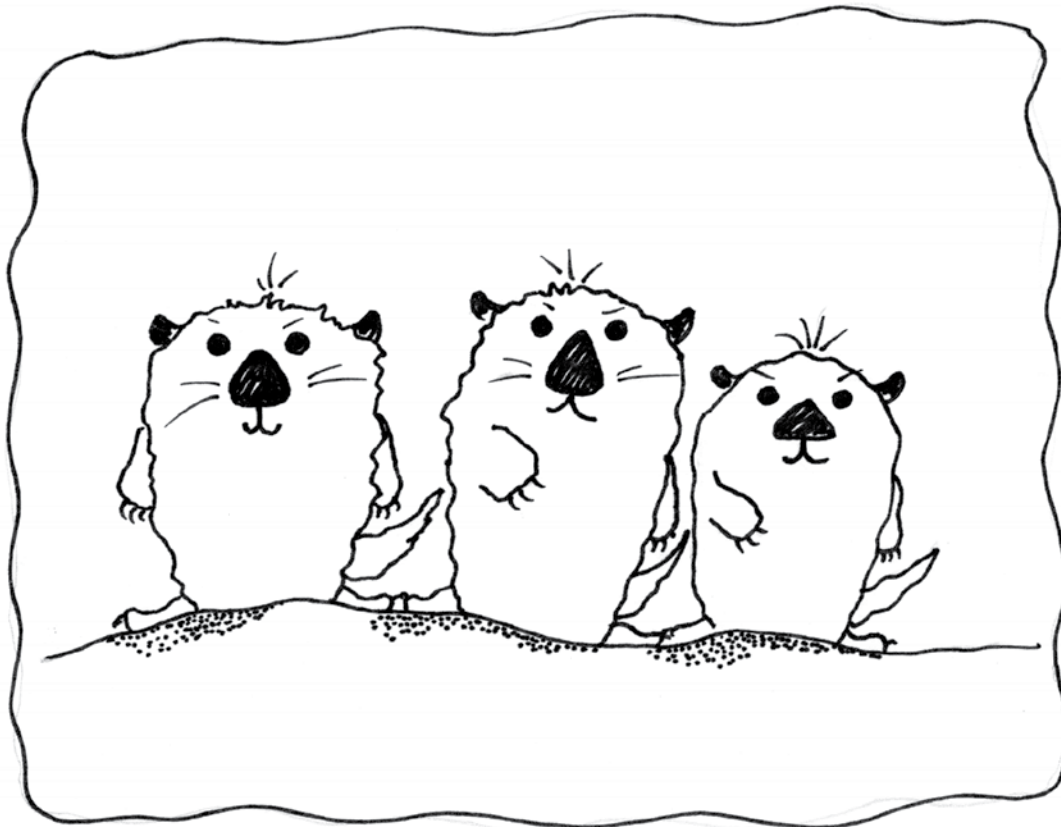


COLORING PAGE

IN THE RIVER SOMETHING STUNK!

¡EN EL RIO ALGO APESTABA!



YUCK!

WILD WORLD BOOK CLUB RIVER OTTERS

Educator's Guide

Objectives

This guide aims to offer a structured approach to outdoor environmental education, combining exploration, hands-on activities, and reflection to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation for nature among young learners. Adjust activities and lesson plans according to local environments and seasonal changes.

Resources for the Wild World Book Club

All resources can be found at

<https://CelebratePlanetEarth.org/wild-world>

- **A Reading List about River Otters**

A list of librarian-approved titles for your Wild World Book Club display.

- **Watch River Otters in NM with the students**

Through photos, short videos, and English-Spanish text, the students learn about the reintroduction of river otters in NM. Discuss the presentation with the students - *What animals have you seen living near our rivers?*

- **New Mexico Rivers Map, a take-home activity**

Each student can be given a map of NM rivers with coordinates to take home and share with their families.

- **Read a story about 3 little otters online**

<https://celebrateplanetearth.org/something-stinks/>

- **Or sign-up for iNaturalist**

<https://www.inaturalist.org>

or download the smartphone app



Reading List: Rivers & the Water Cycle

These books may be available in the school library, a public library, a student reading app, or the Internet Archive—archive.org.

Song of the River by Cowley, Joy & Andrews, Kimberly

A River by Martin, Marc

The Secret of Black Rock by Todd-Stanton, Joe

The Rhythm of the Rain by Baker-Smith, Grahame

Ganesha Goes Green by Thamizhmani, Lakshmi & Dasgupta, Debasmita

Why Water’s Worth It by Harrison, Lori

Rivers: An incredible journey from source to sea by Chapman, Simon & Lan, Qu

Amazing Rivers by Vosburgh Agnone, Julie & Hyndman, Kerry

The River that Flows Beside Me by Guillain, Charlotte & Empson, Jo

Water by Stuart, Melissa

Once Upon a Raindrop: The Story of Water by Carter, James & Nomoco

A Drop in the Ocean: The Story of Water by Bailey, Jacqui & Lilly, Matthew

All About River Otters

An otter is a furry mammal that lives in or near water.

River otters are about the size of a medium dog, but they have short legs and long, thin bodies that help them swim. They can weigh between 6 and 30 pounds and can be 35 to 50 inches long, including their tails.

North American river otters have dark brown fur with shiny gold or silver patches on their cheeks, chins, and necks. They have webbed feet for swimming, small black eyes, round ears, flat black noses, sharp teeth, and claws.

Otters have long whiskers that help them feel movements in the water. This helps them know when other animals are nearby.

Otters can be smelly! They have glands under their tails that make a strong smell called musk. They sometimes rub their bottoms on the ground to leave their scent for other otters.

Even though they spend a lot of time in the water, river otters eat and sleep on land. They live in dens by rivers, ponds, or lakes. They fill their dens with grass, leaves, moss, or bark and sometimes hide the entrance under water.

Baby otters are called pups. They’re born in the winter or spring, usually in groups of 2 or 3. Mothers stay with their pups until they’re older.

Otters are meat eaters. They eat fish, frogs, turtles, crabs, insects, and sometimes small animals like mice or birds.

Some animals, like bobcats, coyotes, owls, and hawks, might hunt otters. But otters are strong fighters and fast swimmers, so they can protect themselves.

River otters are playful animals! They slide down mud or snow, play chase, and wrestle for fun. Even though they don’t like being around people and can’t be tamed, they’re popular in zoos because they look happy and playful.



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