

# AWESOME ANIMALS



## OTTER FRIEND CRAFT

You'll need:



- brown paper lunch bag
- cardstock or copy paper
- printable otter template (<https://tinyurl.com/rsebau6>)
- scissors
- glue
- coloring supplies

Step 1: Print out the otter template. Or, look at the picture and draw the sea otter's face, arms, and legs on the paper yourself.

Step 2: If your sea otter is on white paper, color your sea otter's face, arms, and legs.

Step 3: Cut out your sea otter's face, arms, and legs.

Step 4: Lay your paper bag in front of you with the folded over section at the top. The head is glued onto the folded over section. The arms are glued a little below the folded section of the bag. The legs are glued at the bottom of the bag.

Once glued together, you can open the bag and use the otter as a puppet. Or, stuff the bag with tissue paper or newspaper and cinch the bottom with a rubber band.



## YOU OTTER KNOW!

*Sea otters spend much of their lives in the water and can dive up to 330 feet when foraging for food*

*Sea otters live in shallow coastal waters off the northern Pacific.*

*California sea otters 45 - 65 pounds and Northern sea otters can reach up to 100 pounds.*

*The average lifespan of the sea otter is 10 - 20 years.*

*Sea otters eat urchins, abalone, mussels, clams, crabs, snails and about 40 other marine species.*

*They sometimes rest in coastal kelp forests, often draping the kelp over their bodies to keep from drifting away.*

*Sea otters are also one of the few mammals, other than primates, known to use tools. They use small rocks or other objects to pry shellfish from rocks and to hammer them open.*

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## EXPANDED LEARNING

Sea otters are a keystone species, meaning their role in their environment has a greater effect than other species.

As predators, sea otters are critical to maintaining the balance of the near-shore kelp ecosystems. Without sea otters, sea urchins would devour the kelp forests off the coast that provide cover and food for many other marine animals.

## FOR MORE FUN

Give your sea otter a name. Imagine what it would be like to live in the ocean

Write a story or play about your sea otter.

Act out your story or play for someone else.

Make another sea otter, so someone else can join your story or play.

Print or draw pictures of the sea otter's favorite foods and hide them around the house. Send the otters out to see how many of their favorite foods they can collect.

## RESOURCES

The design and pictures of the sea otter puppets can be found at <https://buggyandbuddy.com/paper-bag-sea-otter-puppet-craft>

Learn more about sea otters at:

<https://defenders.org/wildlife/sea-otter>

<https://www.marinemammalcenter.org/education/marine-mammal-information/sea-otter.html>

