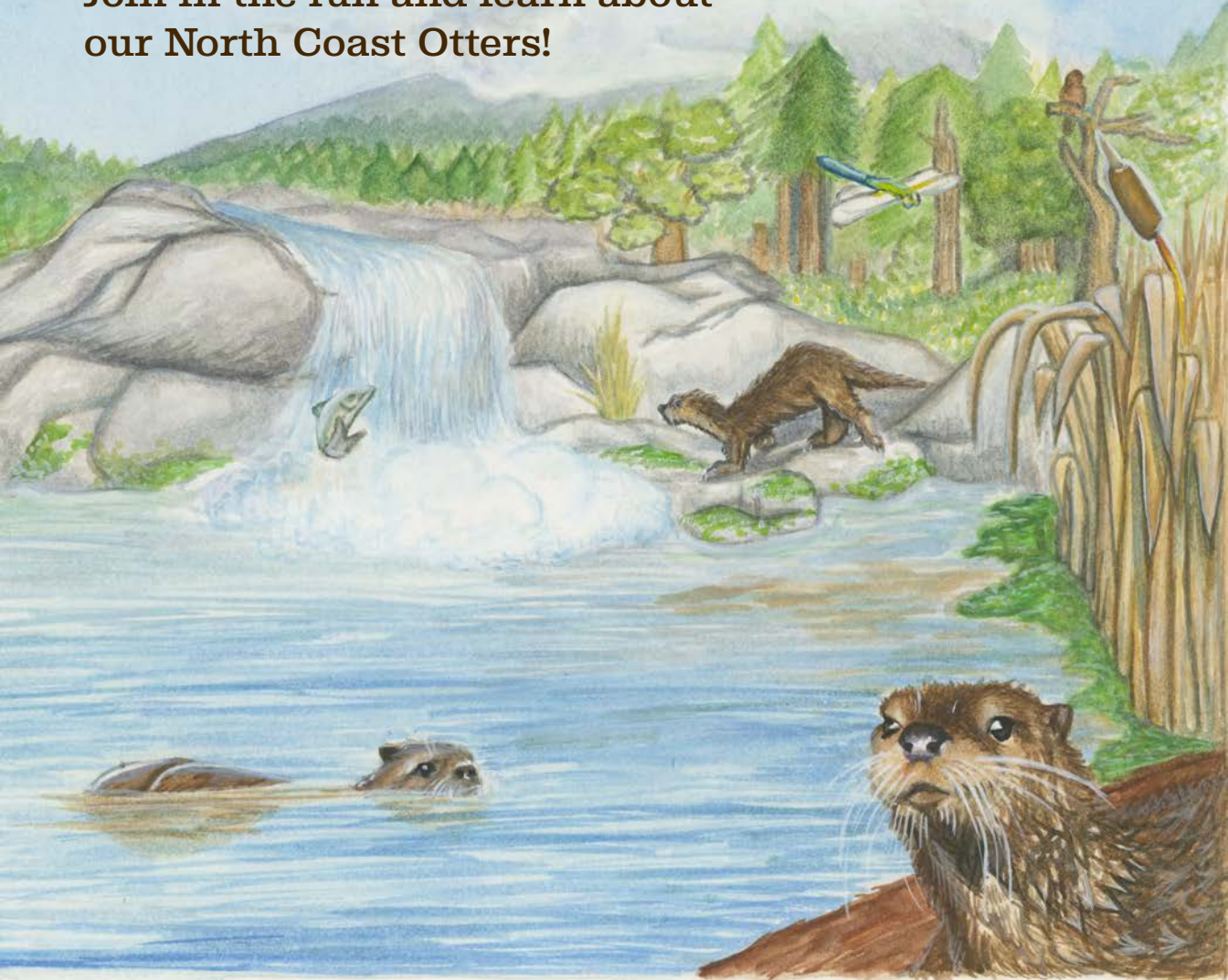


Otter Spotter Activities Booklet

Join in the fun and learn about
our North Coast Otters!







Cover art by Brissa Christophersen

Welcome!



Hi there, I'm Bunty, one of the North Coast Otters. Together, we are going to become Jr. Otter Spotters. I will show you why healthy watersheds are worth celebrating!

Throughout California's North Coast, Otter Art statues, just like me, are hiding in shops, visitor centers, and libraries. To become an official otter spotter, check off the boxes below:

- Find at least three Otter Art statues around town! When you find one of my statue friends, record their name, color your version on the design page, and do the activity on the facing page. Everyone should color in the three otter outlines and do the activity that goes with it.
- Win "fish" points! Depending on your age, you need a certain number of "fish" which can be found at the top of each page.
 - 5 years old and under = 
 - 6 to 8 years old = 
 - 9 to 12 years old = 
 - 13+ years old = 
- Complete the river otter pledge, and turn in the booklet to a participating visitor center [listed in the back] for a special otter spotter patch!



Meet Bunty:

Hi, my name is Bunty!

About me: I live with my mom and two sisters on the beautiful North Coast of California. Right now, I'm smaller than my mom, but I'm growing every day!

Hobbies: Chasing my siblings, making couches from cattail plants, doing flips in the water, sneaking up on birds.

Best friends: my sisters, Olivia and Alexa, and my mom.

Favorite food: I love fish and crayfish.



Introduce Yourself:

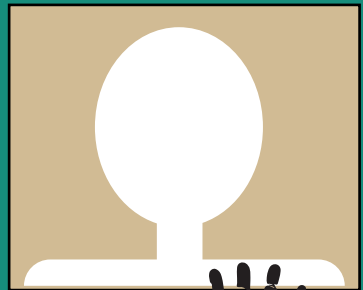
Hi, my name is:

About me:

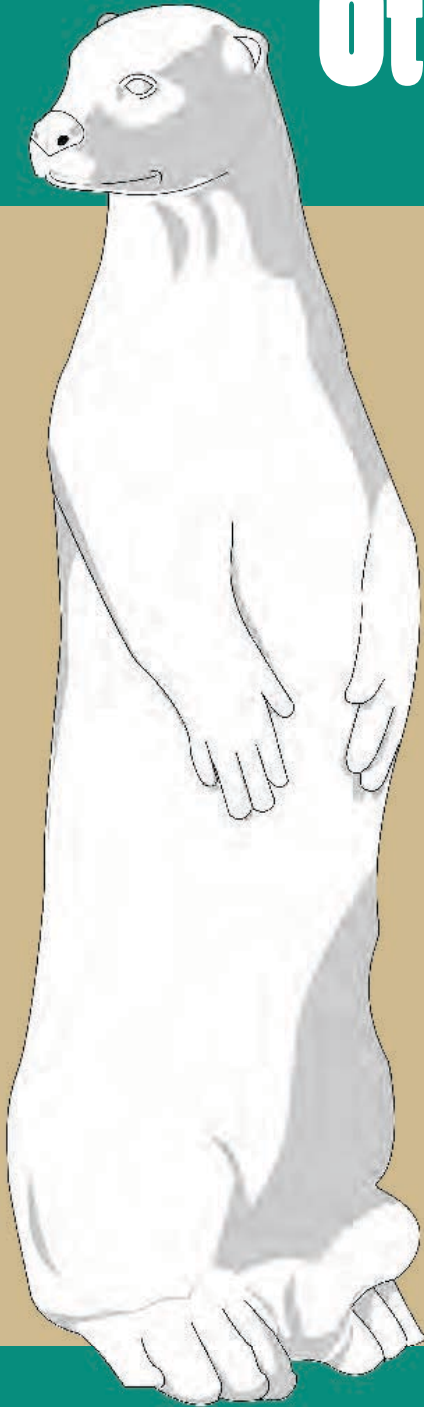
Hobbies:

Best friends:

Favorite food:



Otter Sighting #1



Congratulations!

You found your first Otter Statue and
are one step closer to becoming a Junior
Otter Spotter!!

Otter Name:

Otter Location:

Your Favorite Part of the Otter:



Color me in!



Activity #1

Otters Thrive in Our Watersheds

Welcome to the watershed habitat where I live. A watershed is an area of land where water collects, from the rain or melting snow. It is pulled down by gravity and all comes together in streams and rivers to create larger bodies of water. Here on the North Coast, as the water gets closer to the ocean, rivers get bigger and eventually flow into the Pacific Ocean.

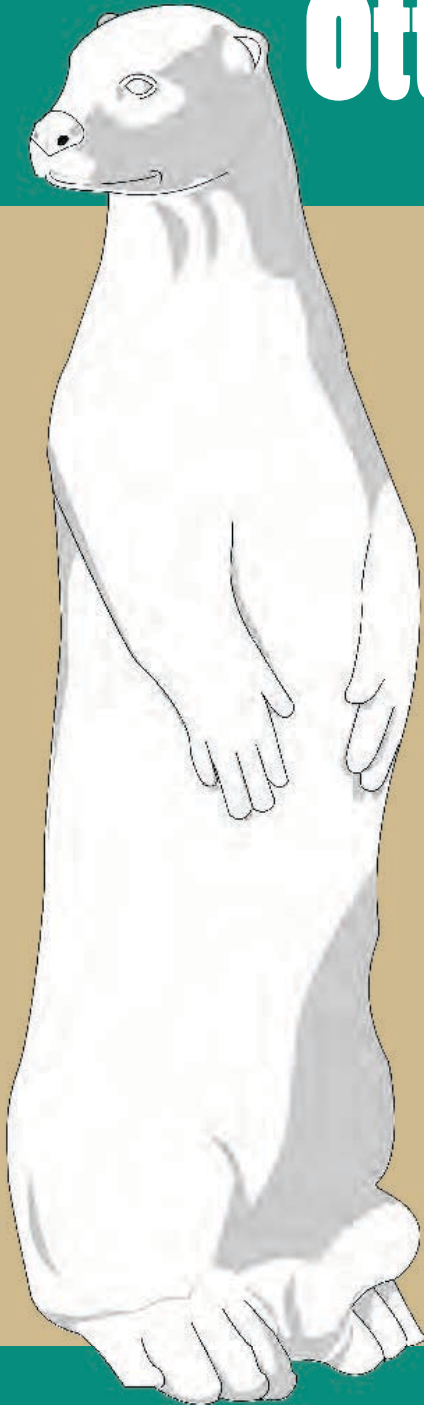


Along California's North Coast, my river otter friends can be found in our healthy watersheds, from the headwaters of our rivers to the ocean. Humans, river otters and many other animals rely on our watersheds for clean water.

Find and and circle five other creatures in the drawing that rely on our healthy watersheds? What creatures have you seen in a river, wetland, or coastal area near you?



Otter Sighting #2



Congratulations!

You found your second Otter Statue and
are one step closer to becoming a Junior
Otter Spotter!!

Otter Name:

Otter Location:

Your Favorite Part of the Otter:



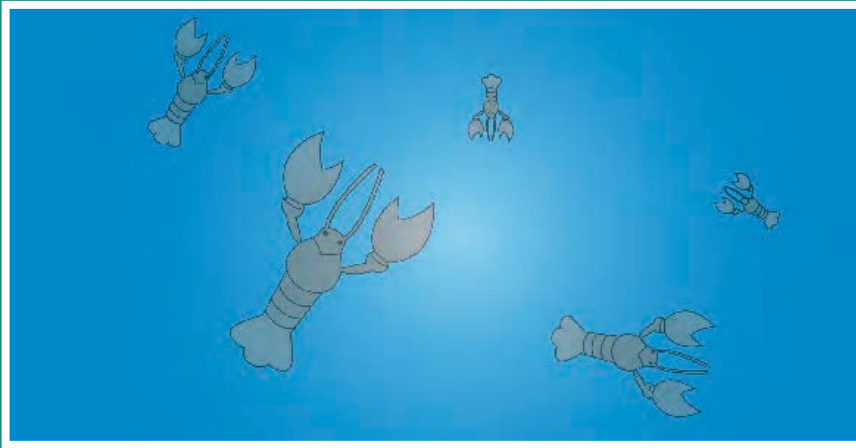
Color me in!



Activity#2

Otters Clearly Need Food

It is a beautiful, sunny day and my river otter friends smell crayfish in this clear, clean watershed. They can easily see, smell, and hunt crayfish. How many can you find?



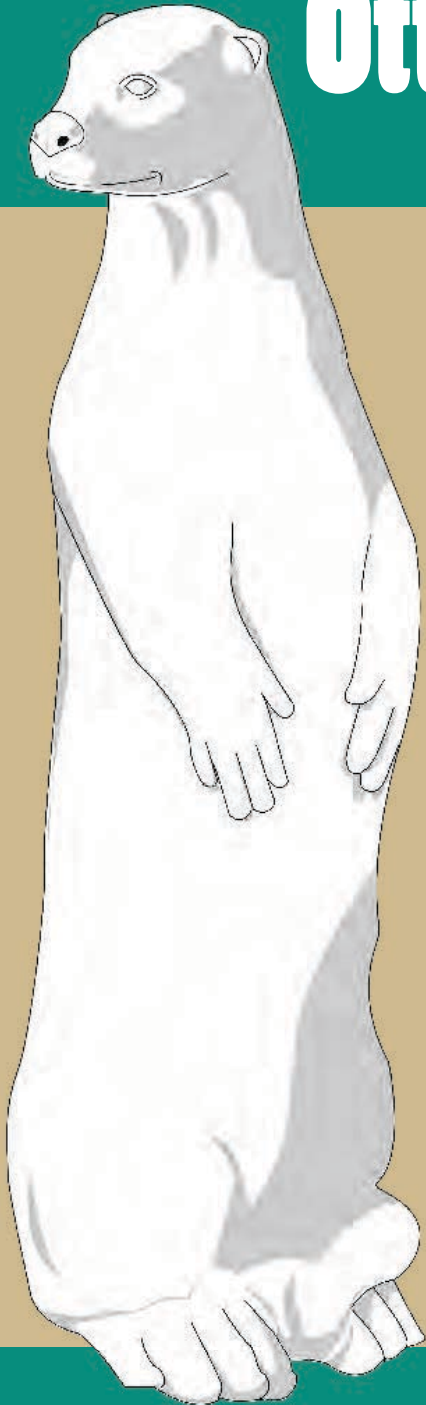
Then, it rained heavily and the water became very muddy. River otters must work harder to find their food. How many crayfish can you find?



In which river would be easier for the river otters to hunt for food?



Otter Sighting #3



Congratulations!

You found your third Otter Statue and
are one step closer to becoming a Junior
Otter Spotter!!

Otter Name:

Otter Location:

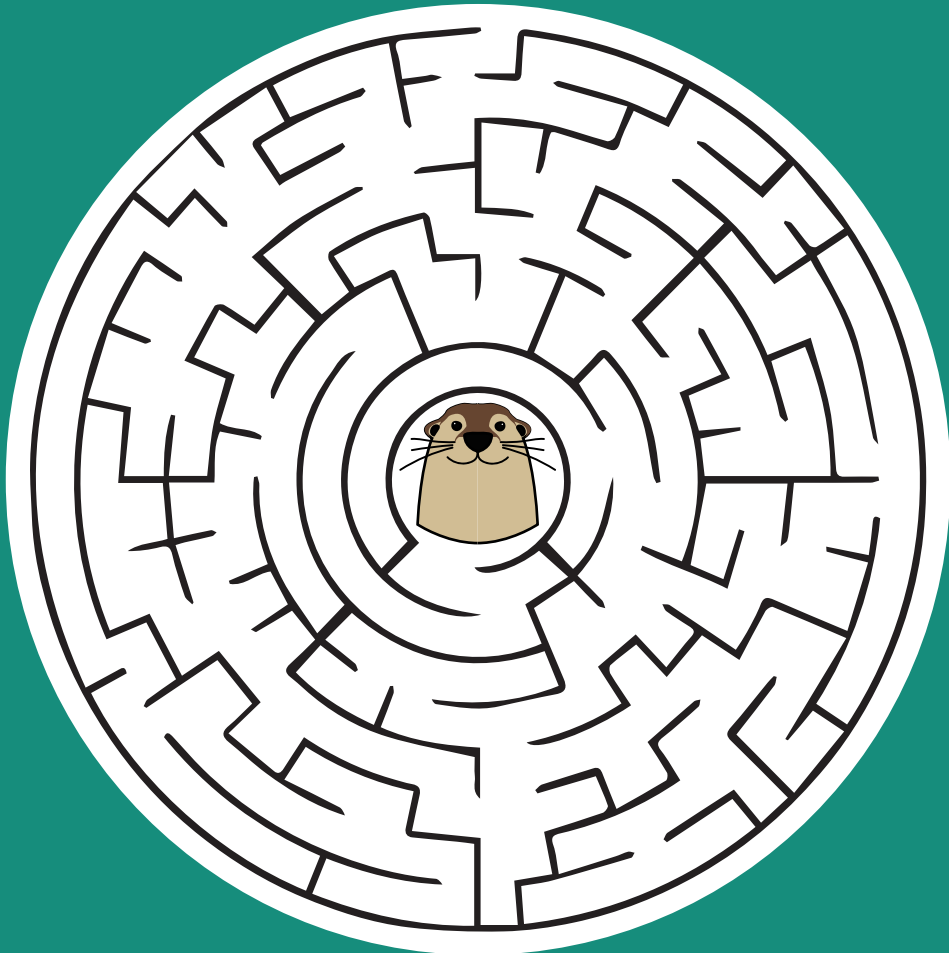
Your Favorite Part of the Otter:



Activity#3

River Otter Moms Lead the Way

We river otters are very thankful for our moms. Otter mothers work hard to raise their pups alone. Mothers may have up to four pups and provide milk while they grow. When the pups are two months old they get their first swim lesson. Mom has high expectations, and pushes them in the water.



This river otter mom is encouraging her younger pups to play in the water today. They are playing with their older sister, who helps mom raise the pups. Now it is the end of the day. Can you help the pup find its way back to mom?

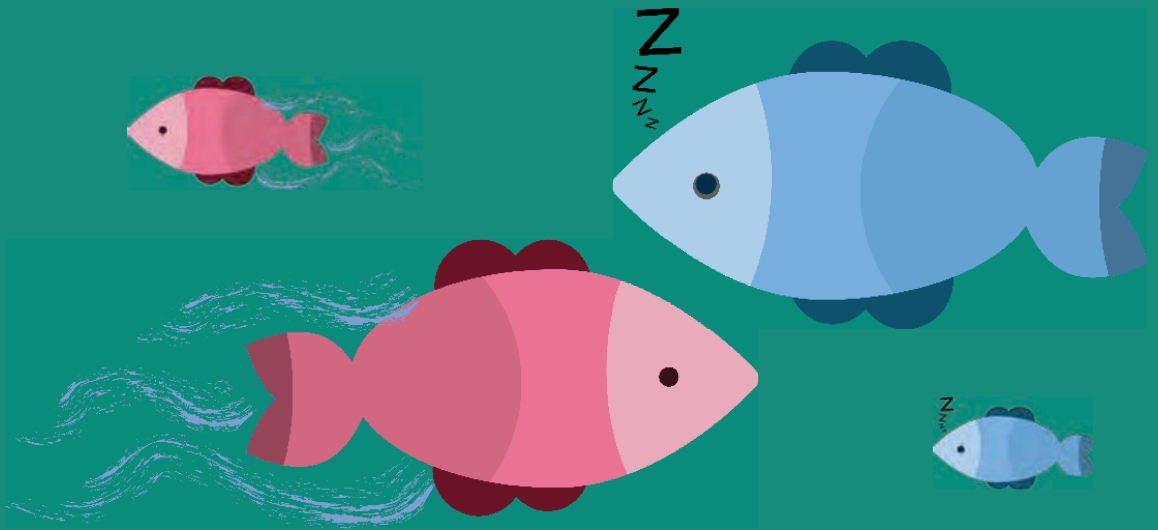


Off the Couch and Into the River!



In the summer, you might love to get out of your house and go play in one of our crystal clear North Coast rivers. Otters love to play as well! And like humans, we also get hungry. One of my friends climbs off their river otter resting place and into the river, to find a fish to eat before they go and play.

Which fish do you think is the best to hunt, so the otter will have the most energy to play later? Circle your answer.



No water? No Fun.

The next summer, my river otter friend notices the river has much less water. There wasn't a lot of rain, which caused a drought. Now, there is little water to fill the waterways. As a result, green algae bloomed in shallow areas. Drought and too much algae can harm fish.

How could fewer fish numbers affect river otters?



What Does Bunty Eat?



Help Bunty find things to eat, so he can spend the day playing in the sun!

L	Y	P	D	U	C	K	S	Q	T	F	W	J	Y
Z	T	E	G	J	M	W	W	C	P	L	Q	T	Z
V	W	M	Q	L	V	B	B	M	R	Y	I	S	K
M	G	B	U	I	M	Q	C	X	Y	A	U	A	J
I	B	G	X	O	I	D	R	I	X	T	B	L	O
Z	M	B	Q	E	N	Q	A	G	Y	R	F	M	V
N	U	S	V	F	N	Y	Y	A	Z	O	N	O	U
C	X	D	J	A	O	X	F	Z	P	U	S	N	D
O	F	I	A	P	W	J	I	L	X	T	Y	M	S
E	R	H	G	G	S	Y	S	V	Y	R	K	T	M
E	O	N	Q	L	A	Y	H	A	G	H	O	M	X
A	G	R	P	J	U	R	X	B	Y	O	P	Z	H
E	S	X	B	W	L	C	H	L	C	W	M	U	H
D	C	A	R	F	X	I	P	E	Z	Y	D	S	S
O	R	L	A	M	P	R	E	Y	U	C	V	Y	M

Crayfish

Crab

Lamprey

Ducks

Frogs

Minnows

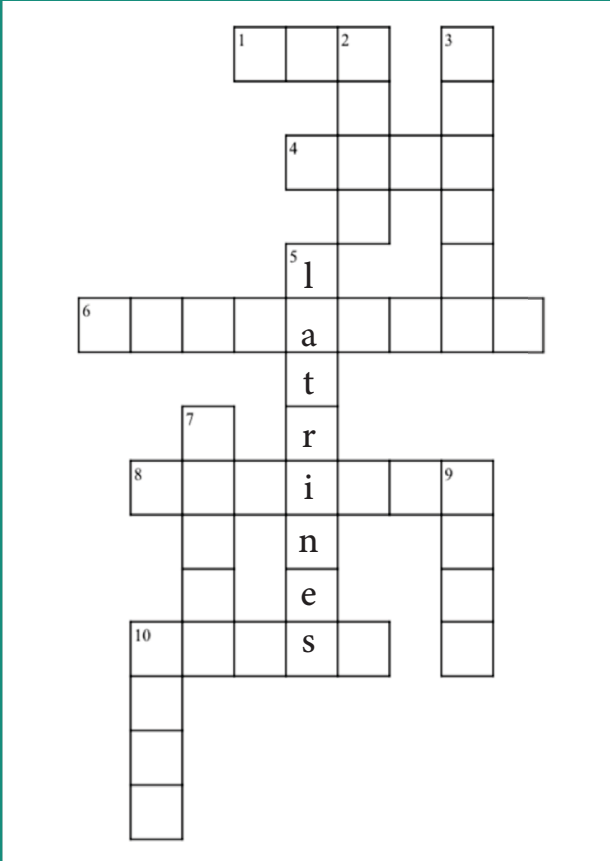
Salmon

Trout

Coots



River Otter Crossword



Down:

2. Animals that are eaten by river otters, or river otter's ---- includes crayfish, amphibians, and even birds.

3. The ---- is the leader of the otter family.

5. River otters have certain spots where they use the bathroom, like toilets! These are called ----.

7. A river otter's habitat includes both land and ----.

9. A dog wags this when it's excited. River otters do not wag their ----, but instead use it to steer in the water.

10. A favorite food of the river otter may be yours too! They catch it with their sharp teeth and claws instead of with a hook and line.

Across:

1. A baby otter is called a ----, just like a baby seal or dog!

4. River otters are carnivores, meaning they eat only ----.

6. Animals that eat river otters, or ---- of river otters, include bobcats, mountain lions, coyotes, and wolves.

8. ---- is the place where an animal lives, eats, sleeps, and plays.

10. River otters can be found in saltwater, but still need ---- water to drink.

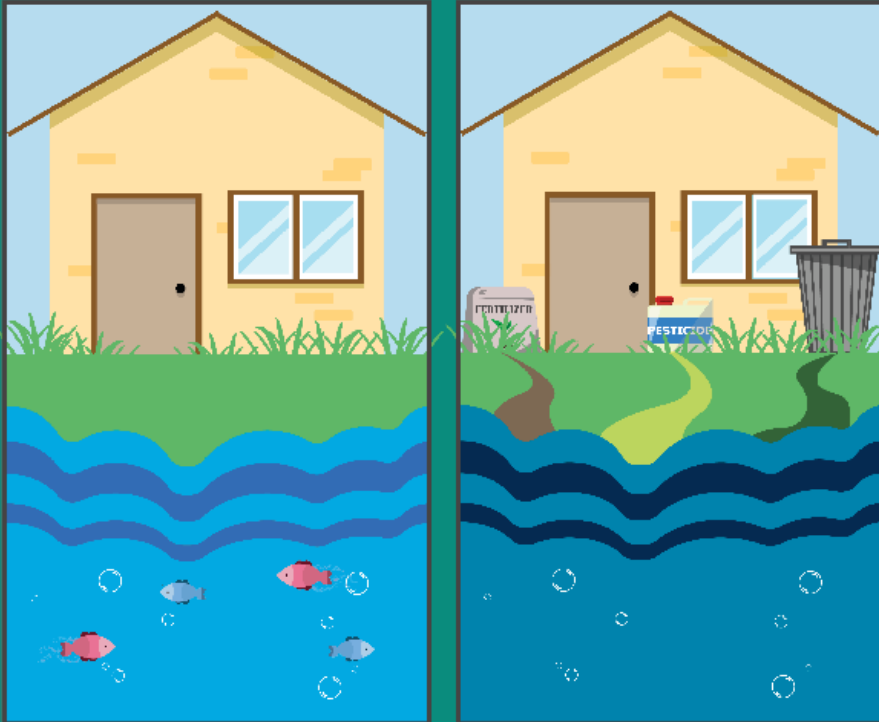


We Grow up in Clean, Healthy Water



Along the river, one of my river otter friends lives close to two human families. Both families have gardens with beautiful flowers for decoration, and vegetables for food. The river otter family has noticed that they sometimes feel sick when they are swimming by one of the houses.

Can you notice any differences in the way these families use the land?



Fertilizer, pesticides, and other pollutants can end up in watersheds when it rains, and make animals sick.

Write an idea of how human families could use watershed friendly products that don't pollute:



Seen WILD Otters?



photo by Alan Peterson

Participate in the Citizen Science River Otter Project

We keep track of otters – top animal on our coasts and watersheds. If you spot a river otter in Humboldt, Del Norte, or adjacent counties, please let us know.

Please record your sighting here and be sure to send it to us via one of the methods below! Thanks for being a wild River Otter Spotter!

Date:

Time:

Location (coordinates if possible):

Number of adults and smaller pups:

What were the otters doing:

Phone:
707 826-3439

Email:
otters@humboldt.edu

Facebook:
@ottersproject

Thanks for your participation!
Professor Jeff Black, Project Organizer



Jr. Otter Spotter Pledge

This certificate hereby states that:

I, _____, will help keep river otters healthy by:

Doing my part to keep our watersheds clean, for otters [and me].
Respecting our watersheds, which are home to our fish, river
otters, and other wildlife.

Being a citizen scientist Otter Spotter
who helps keep track of wild river otters
by recording sightings.

Return to a
participating visitor
center to receive
your official sticker!
[Place Here]

NORTH COAST
OTTERS
PUBLIC ARTS INITIATIVE



FOOTPRINT
FOUNDATION

Get Ready
Humboldt
College for a Great Career

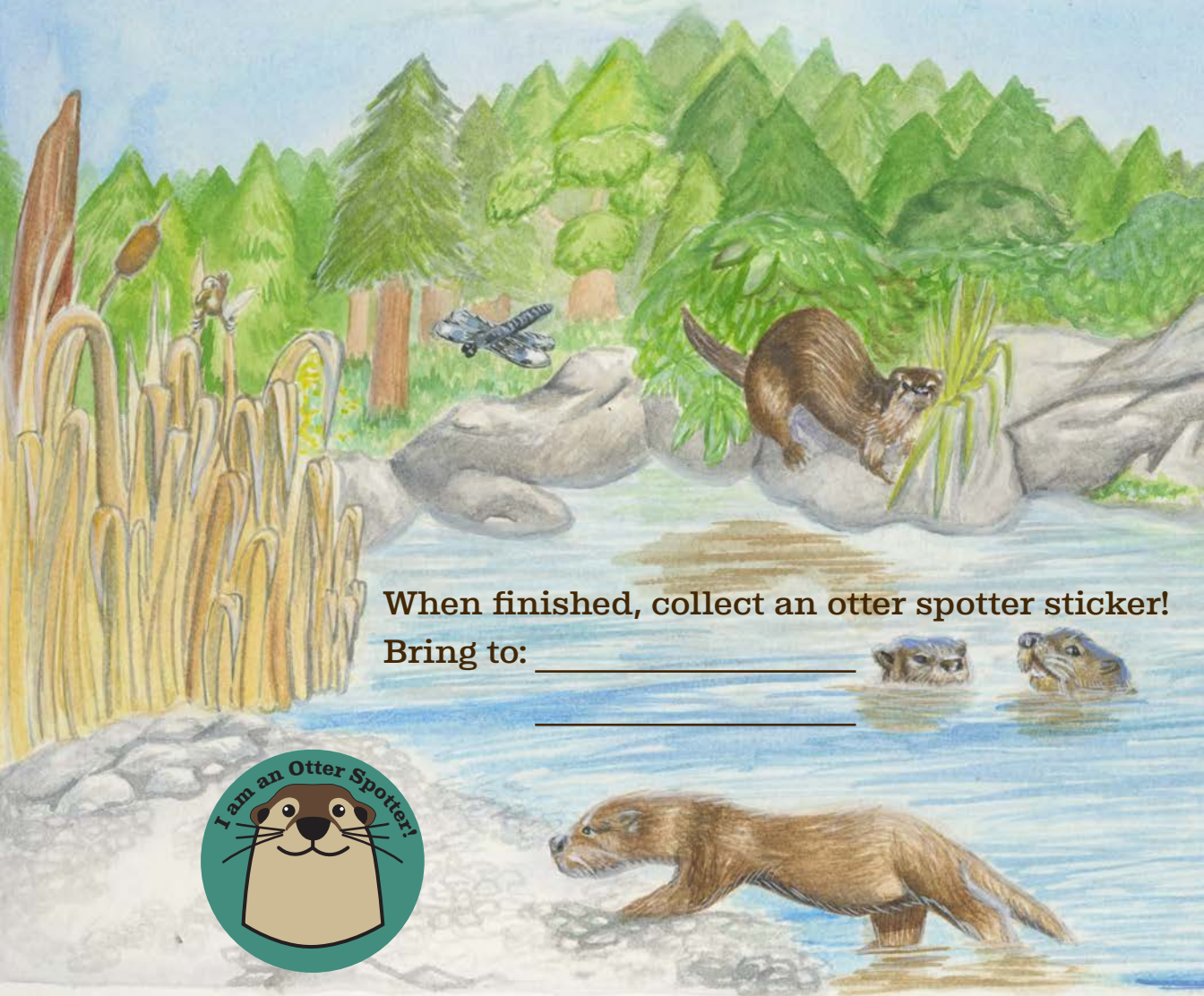


ARCATA ANIMAL
HOSPITAL
He's here for you.





Promoting clean water
and healthy habitats
where we live
and play!



When finished, collect an otter spotter sticker!

Bring to: _____

