



Saplings Colouring Package #23



*World Otter Day
May 25*





Did You Know?

Ten Fun Facts About Otters

1. Sea otters will link paws while they rest in the water to avoid drifting apart from one another. Scientists call a group of resting otters a "raft."
2. Otters are some of the only mammals in the world that use tools. A sea otter will float on its back, place a rock on its chest, and smash hard-shelled clams or mussels against the rock to open them.
3. Sea otters have a special, baggy fold of loose skin under their armpits that they use as a pocket. They use these "pockets" to store their favorite cracking rocks and extra food.
4. Otters do not have a layer of fat (blubber) to keep them warm like whales do. Instead, they rely on a super-thick coat of fur. A single square inch of a sea otter's coat has up to one million hairs.
5. River otters are highly energetic and playful. They love to make their own water slides on muddy or snowy riverbanks to slip and splash into the water.
6. Using their powerful, torpedo-like tails and webbed feet, otters can swim up to 7 miles per hour, which is about three times faster than an average human swimmer.
7. Otter pups (baby otters) are born with a special, fluffy baby fur that is so airy and dense that they literally cannot sink. This means they float like beach balls while their mothers dive down to catch food.
8. Because they burn so much energy swimming in cold water, otters have a very fast digestion rate. A sea otter needs to eat up to 25% of its own body weight in food every single day.
9. When diving deep to hunt for food, an otter can close its ears and nostrils. Sea otters can hold their breath for up to 5 minutes, and river otters can hold theirs for 8 minutes.
10. By eating sea urchins, otters stop the urchins from destroying underwater kelp forests. This allows the kelp forests to grow, providing homes for other ocean animals and keeping the ecosystem healthy.

Now It's Your Turn!
Draw your own otter here

Kids' drawings that are scanned may be included in a promotional video on Saplings social media. Email drawings to lisa@onethousandtrees.com by the end of the month.