

Sea Otters

Read the text. Then answer the questions on the next page.

- 1 Sea otters live in the cold water of the Pacific Ocean. They have many clever ways to stay alive in the sea.
- 2 A sea otter's fur keeps it warm. Sea otters have the thickest fur of any animal. The fur traps tiny bubbles of air next to the skin. The air holds in heat like a warm coat. Otters clean their fur for hours each day so it keeps working.
- 3 Sea otters use tools to get food. An otter dives down to find a clam or a crab. Then it floats on its back and sets a rock on its chest. It hits the shell on the rock until the shell cracks open.
- 4 Sea otters even have a trick for sleeping. Before a nap, an otter rolls itself in long seaweed called kelp. The kelp is stuck to the sea floor. It holds the otter in place so the waves do not carry it away.



A sea otter floats on its back to eat.

Sea Otters: Questions

Go back to the text to find your proof. Underline it in the color shown.

1. What is the topic of this text?

- ☐ the Pacific Ocean
- ☐ sea otters
- ☐ kelp

2. Which sentence tells the main idea of the whole text?



- ☐ Sea otters eat clams and crabs.
- ☐ Kelp is a long seaweed.
- ☐ Sea otters have many clever ways to stay alive in the sea.

3. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?



- ☐ A sea otter's fur keeps it warm.
- ☐ Otters clean their fur.
- ☐ Air is made of tiny bubbles.

4. Write two details from paragraph 3 that tell how an otter uses a tool.



5. What is paragraph 4 mostly about?



6. Which detail could the author add to paragraph 2?

- ☐ Otters like to eat sea urchins too.
- ☐ Otters do not have thick fat like whales do, so they need their fur.
- ☐ Kelp can grow very tall.

Sea Otters: Answer Key

Answers are in green. The proof is where to find each answer in the text.

1. What is the topic of this text?

- ☐ the Pacific Ocean
- ☒ **sea otters**
- ☐ kelp

Proof The words “sea otter” are in the title and in every paragraph.

2. Which sentence tells the main idea of the whole text?

red

- ☐ Sea otters eat clams and crabs.
- ☐ Kelp is a long seaweed.
- ☒ **Sea otters have many clever ways to stay alive in the sea.**

Proof Paragraph 1: “They have many clever ways to stay alive in the sea.”

3. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?

orange

- ☒ **A sea otter’s fur keeps it warm.**
- ☐ Otters clean their fur.
- ☐ Air is made of tiny bubbles.

Proof Paragraph 2: “A sea otter’s fur keeps it warm.”

4. Write two details from paragraph 3 that tell how an otter uses a tool.

yellow

It sets a rock on its chest. It hits the shell on the rock until the shell cracks open.

5. What is paragraph 4 mostly about?

green

How sea otters sleep without floating away. (They roll up in kelp.)

6. Which detail could the author add to paragraph 2?

- ☐ Otters like to eat sea urchins too.
- ☒ **Otters do not have thick fat like whales do, so they need their fur.**
- ☐ Kelp can grow very tall.

Proof Paragraph 2 is about fur keeping otters warm. Only this detail is about that.