



Go the Otter Way

Virtual Classroom Extension

Objective

This activity is designed to help your at-home students see themselves as scientists and begin to think critically about problem-solving. The goal is to share concepts through discovery and to encourage using scientific thought processes. As with all lessons provided, feel free to adapt them to your students' abilities. Certain scientific vocabulary may or may not be appropriate for your students' level of understanding. Take these ideas, make them your own, and your child will have a greater chance at success.

Grade

K-1

Materials

Computer or tablet with internet access, paper, writing utensil.

Procedure

1. Begin this activity by watching the otter Virtual Classroom video <https://resourcelibrary.clemet zoo.com/Area/21>. Tell your students to pay close attention to what the otters look like, and what they are doing in the video.
2. After watching the video, make a list of some observations they had about the otters and what the otters were doing.
3. Next, have your students pick a behavior that they saw the otters do. Make sure your student does not say the behavior out loud. If your student can't think of something, a list of otter behaviors is provided at the end of this lesson plan. Consider finding videos online of each of the behaviors so that your students can see what they look like.
4. Tell your student to act out the behavior. The other students will try to guess what the behavior is. You may allow the student to use props and make sounds. If you only have one student at home, you can try to guess the behavior. Alternatively, you could act out behaviors with students and then discuss them without the guessing game component.
5. After the behavior has been guessed correctly discuss the following questions:
 - a. How does that behavior help an otter meet its needs in the wild?
 - b. What are physical characteristics that otters have that help them to do the behavior?
 - c. How is the behavior similar to and/or different from things that people do?
6. The next person can pick a behavior to act out.
7. Repeat steps 3-6 until there are no more ideas for behaviors to act out.
8. Discuss with your students what they learned about otters from the activity.

Ohio's Learning Standards

Science Content Standards

Grade K Life Science Topic: Physical and Behavioral Traits of Living Things

K.LS.2: Living things have physical traits and behaviors, which influence their survival.

Grade 1 Life Science Topic: Basic Needs of Living Things

1.LS.1: Living things have basic needs, which are met by obtaining materials from the physical environment.



Otter Behavior Cards

<p>An otter using a rock to open a clam shell</p>	<p>An otter grooming its fur</p>
<p>An otter sliding down a riverbank</p>	<p>An otter looking for food underwater</p>
<p>An otter teaching its young how to swim</p>	<p>An otter playing with a pebble</p>