



Sea otters are cute, intelligent and resourceful animals. They are considered a “keystone species” because of the crucial role they play in keeping the oceanic ecosystems healthy. They are the earth’s Conservation Heros!



They are found on every continent except Australia and Antarctica, but Alaska (USA) is the home of the majority of these amazing sea creatures.

Sea otters rarely come to land. They live offshore in giant forests of kelp (giant seaweed). They can live

their whole lives without leaving the water because the ocean gives them everything they need to survive.

They spend much of their time on their backs to eat, rest and groom. Sea otters are one of the most intelligent sea animals; when they are sleeping because of the tidal waters they can float away from their family, so they group together holding paws with each other to stop them floating away.



Sea otter babies live on their mothers' stomachs so she can keep them safe. Baby sea otters learn to swim almost immediately; they are natural born swimmers!



Sea otters have the thickest fur of any animal. They don't have a layer of blubber to keep them warm, so their thick fur helps when the ocean temperatures reach freezing, especially where they live in the Northern Pacific Ocean. Their dense fur also helps them float in the water by trapping air within their fur. However, they are also hunted because of their fur, and it has caused them to become almost extinct in many places.



Sea otters have very big appetites. They eat about 25% of their body weight every day. They need this to balance their daily activity as they are very energetic creatures. Their favourite foods are sea urchins, crabs

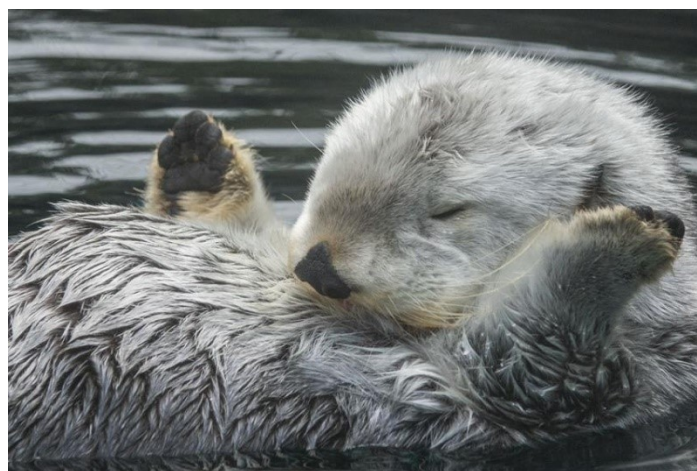


and clams. This is also where sea otters display their indirect heroicness; sea urchins devour kelp (which help balance the carbon dioxide levels in these oceanic



environments) and if it was not for sea otters, the carbon dioxide levels would harm the conditions of the atmosphere on these coastlines.

I chose sea otters for my project because I think they are really beautiful animals. I wanted to learn more about them, and I now know how amazing they are, and how much they give to our world. It makes me sad that they are hunted for their fur and that the amount of sea otters in some places is a lot less. I really hope these wonderful creatures never stop being on our planet.



The end!