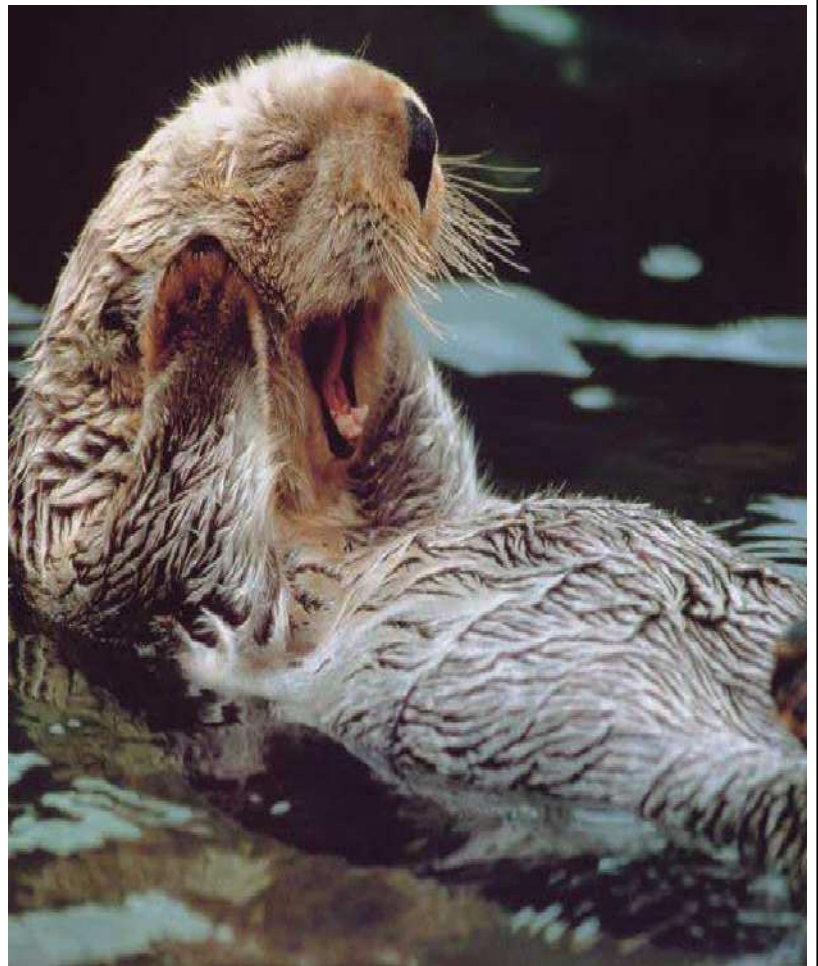


Animal Facts:

Otters

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Otters are small hunting mammals which are related to weasels. They are one of the 65 species of mustelid, along with stoats, skunks and badgers.



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Otters live close to water and are brilliant swimmers and divers.



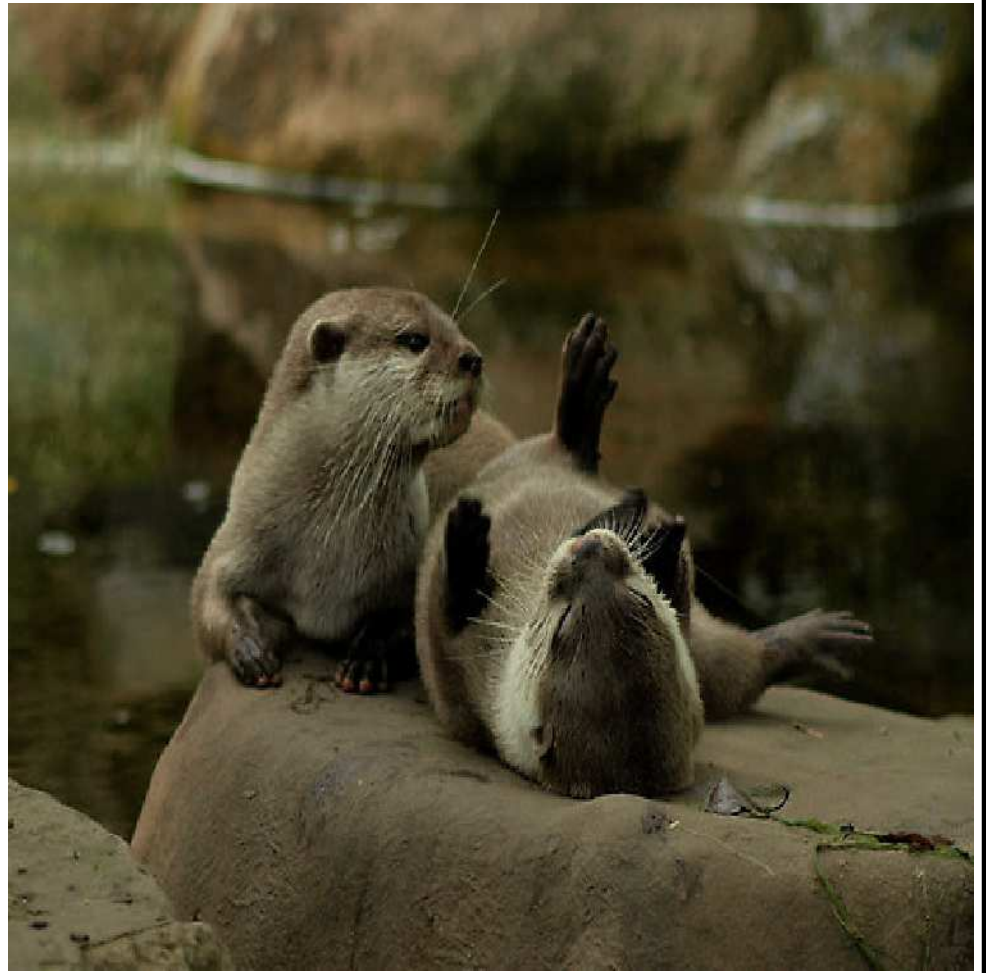
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Otters can close off their nostrils and ears, allowing them to remain underwater for 4 or 5 minutes.



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Otters are very playful creatures, romping around on river banks and sliding down into the water.



Otters can use their paws like hands, to play with things such as stones and shellfish.



Otters hunt fish, mostly at night, but they also eat crayfish and crabs, clams and frogs.



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Otters usually live in burrows in riverbanks.



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Sea otters live on the shores of western North America.



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Sea otters will float on their backs for hours, eating and sleeping. Mother sea otters often carry their baby on their stomachs while floating like this.



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Sea otters eat shellfish. They will balance a rock on their stomach while floating on their back, and crack the shellfish by banging it on the rock.

