Name: _____ Date: _____

Sea Otters Wrap Up in Kelp to Nap

Circle group

A sea otter lives in the ocean. It sleeps on the water. But waves can push a sleeping otter far away.

The otter has a trick. It stays near kelp. Kelp is a tall brown seaweed. It grows in the sea like a forest. Before a nap, the otter rolls in the kelp. The leaves wrap around it like a blanket.

Roots hold the kelp down on the sea floor. So the otter stays in one spot. It can rest.

A mother otter may wrap her pup in kelp. Then she can dive for food. Otters may also sleep in a group. Some of them hold paws so they stay close.

Questions

1. Where does a sea otter sleep?

_____

_____

2. What is kelp?

_____

_____

3. What does the otter do before a nap?

_____

_____

4. What holds the kelp down?

_____

_____

5. Why does a mother otter wrap her pup in kelp?

_____

_____

6. Why could a sleeping otter drift away without kelp?

_____

_____

Words to know

kelp: a tall brown seaweed that grows in the sea

pup: a baby otter

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Sea Otters Wrap Up in Kelp to Nap

Triangle group

A sea otter spends almost all of its life in the ocean. It even sleeps on the water. That raises a problem. Waves and currents could carry a sleeping otter far from home.

The otter has a clever way to stay put. It lives near kelp, a tall brown seaweed that grows in thick forests under the sea. Its long leaves float at the top of the water. Before a nap, the otter rolls over and over in the kelp. The leaves wrap around its body like a blanket.

Now the otter is anchored to the kelp, which is held down by roots on the sea floor. The otter can rest without drifting away.

Sometimes a mother otter wraps her pup in kelp while she dives for food. Groups of otters may also float together while they sleep. Some of them hold paws, so they do not drift apart.

Questions

1. Where does a sea otter sleep?

_____

_____

2. What is kelp?

_____

_____

3. What does the otter do before a nap?

_____

_____

4. What holds the kelp in place?

_____

_____

5. Why does a mother otter wrap her pup in kelp?

_____

_____

6. Why would a sleeping otter drift away without kelp?

_____

_____

Words to know

kelp: a tall brown seaweed that grows in the sea
currents: streams of water that move through the ocean
anchored: held firmly in one place
pup: a baby otter
drifting: being carried along slowly by water

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Sea Otters Wrap Up in Kelp to Nap

Square group

A sea otter spends nearly its entire life in the ocean, and it even sleeps while floating on the surface. This creates a real difficulty, because waves and strong currents could carry a sleeping otter far away from its home waters.

The otter solves the problem with a clever habit. It lives close to kelp, a tall brown seaweed that grows in thick forests beneath the waves. The long leaves of the kelp float at the top of the water. Before it naps, the otter rolls over and over in the leaves until they wrap around its body like a blanket.

Since the kelp is held down by roots on the sea floor, the otter becomes anchored in place and can rest without drifting.

Occasionally a mother otter wraps her pup in kelp while she dives to hunt for food. Groups of otters may also float together as they sleep, and some of them hold paws so that they do not drift apart.

Questions

1. Where does a sea otter sleep?

_____

_____

2. What is kelp, and where does it grow?

_____

_____

3. What does the otter do before it naps?

_____

_____

4. What keeps the kelp in one place?

_____

_____

5. Why might a mother otter wrap her pup in kelp?

_____

_____

6. What difficulty would a sleeping otter face without kelp?

_____

_____

Words to know

kelp: a tall brown seaweed that grows in the sea
currents: streams of water that move through the ocean
anchored: held firmly in one place
pup: a baby otter
drifting: being carried along slowly by water

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Sea Otters Wrap Up in Kelp to Nap

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Sea Otters Wrap Up in Kelp to Nap

Easier · 111 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.8

1. On the water in the sea.
2. A tall brown seaweed that grows in the sea.
3. It rolls in the kelp, and the leaves wrap around it.
4. Roots on the sea floor.
5. So the pup stays in one spot while she dives for food.
6. Waves would push it, and nothing would hold it.

Triangle: Sea Otters Wrap Up in Kelp to Nap

This passage · 149 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.6

1. On the water in the ocean.
2. A tall brown seaweed that grows in thick forests under the sea.
3. It rolls over and over in the kelp so the leaves wrap around it.
4. Its roots on the sea floor.
5. So the pup stays in one spot while she dives for food.
6. Waves and currents would carry it, and nothing would hold it in place.

Square: Sea Otters Wrap Up in Kelp to Nap

Harder · 163 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7

1. While floating on the surface of the ocean.
2. A tall brown seaweed that grows in thick forests beneath the waves.
3. It rolls over and over in the leaves until they wrap around its body.
4. Roots on the sea floor hold it down.
5. So the pup stays put and does not drift while she hunts.
6. Waves and currents could carry it far from home with nothing to hold it.