
Observing River Otters

1. Look at the river otter's body. It is streamlined in order to help it move through the water easily. What shape is most like a river otter's body shape?

- a cube
- a ball
- a pyramid
- a pointed tube

2. Name something else that travels underwater and is the same shape as a river otter. _____

3. How are the river otter's feet adapted for swimming? Check the correct answer.

- They have long toes.
- They are webbed.
- They have sharp claws.

4. When some people swim, they sometimes hold their noses to prevent water from going into their noses. The river otter cannot hold its nose shut, but it can prevent water from going into its nose. How does it do this? Check the right answer.

- using nose plugs
- jumping in feet first
- closing the strong muscles around their nostrils
- never going near the water

5. Look at the river otter's head. Can you guess how this animal is adapted for sensing its way along the river bottom? (Hint: look at eyes, ears, facial hair)

Now draw a picture of the otter. Then draw a line to those parts of the river otter's body that helps it:

- Swim
- See
- Smell
- Hear
- Feel things
- Stay warm