

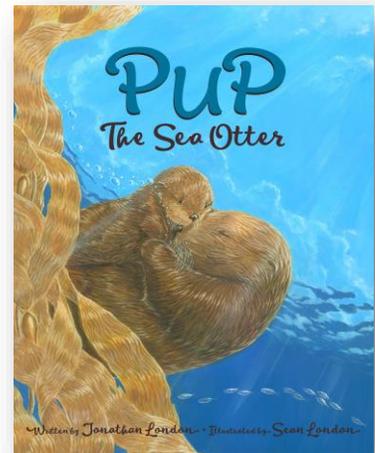
# Pup the Sea Otter

Written by Jonathan London, Illustrated by Sean London

## Reading/Writing/Language Arts

Read *Pup the Sea Otter* and answer the following questions:

1. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1) Based on this story, where are baby sea otters born, and where do they spend time growing with their mothers in their first weeks?
2. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1) What does a baby otter eat in its first weeks of life? How old is an otter when it first can eat solid food?
3. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.9) Find another book or online source describing the lives of sea otters. What information is found in both that source and this story? What information is only found in one or the other? Why do you think the author left out that point?
4. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.6) What is the author's purpose in telling Pup's story? Read the Author's Note at the end of the book. Does that give you any more clues into why the author chose to write this story?
5. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.6, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7) Who are the author and the illustrator of *Pup the Sea Otter*? How do the pictures help you understand what is being said in the story?



### Writing:

1. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.7) The author mentions several different animals that are eaten by sea otters. Make a list of the creatures mentioned as otter prey. Choose one of those animals, and research its life cycle. Where does it fit in the food chain? Does it have any predators other than otters? What does it eat?
2. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.7, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.9) Research what Pup's next year of life would be like. How will his later days be the same as or different from his early months with his mother?
3. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.9) The Author's Note at the end of *Pup the Sea Otter* includes additional information about otters and the challenges they face. Read the Author's Note, and write a brief summary of the important facts included there.

### Vocabulary:

(CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.4) *Teacher note: Some of these terms may be above grade level for your group. Pre-teaching vocabulary in context should help students with comprehension. These terms fall under Tiers II and III for the Common Core State Standards.*

bursts	abalone	swish
nuzzles	whack	tumble
tongue	oysters	wrestling
kelp	buoyant	wrapped
forages	billowing	

1. Assign each term to a pair of students. Have student pairs act out the term or design a visual display to teach the word to their classmates.
2. Find a *synonym* for each word on the list. A synonym is a word that has the same—or nearly the same—meaning as another word.

3. *Pup the Sea Otter* Word Find:

Find these words from *Pup the Sea Otter*. They are hidden forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally.

t k t t a o p b u r s t s u x  
u e l w e t y n e n j t n h s  
a l d h l u n s n s b d u z x  
b p h a b m a d t q o z z b t  
a y w c u b b u f e m g z w t  
l i t k o l i s s a r s l r d  
o o r q y e l j s u m s e e w  
n h r x a k l g g l z u s s r  
e u u d n l o f s w i s h t a  
u z r w t z w l o o u r e l p  
t o n g u e i y o r s p l i p  
f y w n m h n g i t a n j n e  
w f q m r h g g n h e g l g d  
c j o r l x s g m j t j e w d  
z h i p z y i v u p h p l s c

bursts  
nuzzles  
tongue  
kelp  
forages  
abalone  
whack  
oysters  
buoyant  
billowing  
swish  
tumble  
wrestling  
wrapped



**Science/Natural History/Geography**

(See also the questions in the reading and writing sections.)

Research the answers to these questions in your library or online:

1. The Author's Note at the end of *Pup the Sea Otter* lists several different factors that are affecting the number of sea otters that survive each year. What was the biggest threat from 1741 and 1911? What is the greatest threat now?
2. Food webs are one way to think about how the predators and prey interact in an ecosystem. Otters eat sea urchins, which in turn eat kelp, which feeds and protects many other species. How are otters important to the cycle of kelp growth? How does this affect other animals within the ocean's food web?

**Math**

Grade 1: (CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.1.OA.A.1)

On Pup's first day diving for food after his adult coat grew in, he found 5 tasty clams. On his second day diving, he found 4 crunchy crabs. On his third day, he found 6 delicious sea urchins. How many sea critters did he find in all three days combined? Draw a picture to help you find the answer.

Grade 2: (CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.2.OA.C.3)

Pup's mother brought him 19 juicy clams. He cracked them open by grabbing two clams and bashing them together. If he eats the clams two at a time, will he have just the right amount, or will he have one left over that he has to open with a rock? If he has enough clams to eat in pairs with no leftovers, what kind of number is that (odd or even)? Draw a picture to help you find your answer.

Grade 3: (CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.3.OA.A.3)

Pup is growing fast! Just this afternoon, he made 8 dives for clams at the bottom of the bay. Each time he dived, he brought up 6 delicious clams. Back and forth he went, collecting tasty clams to feed his big appetite. How many clams did Pup collect this afternoon? Draw a picture to help you find your answer.