



**DEVI  
SANSTHAN**  
Dignity Education  
Vision International  
*Leave no one behind*

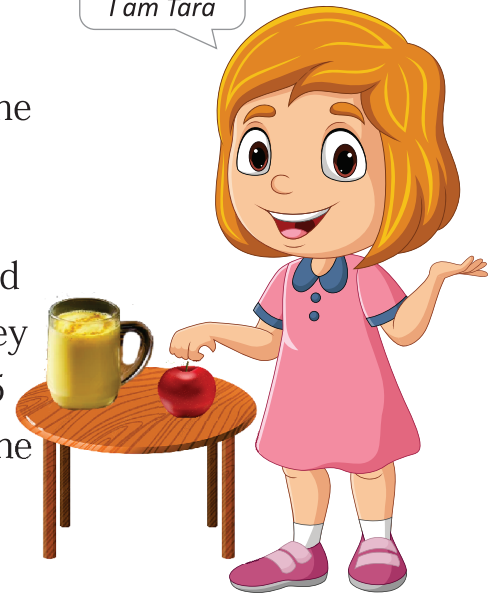


# **The Furry Sea Otters of the Chilly Pacific**

## The Furry Sea Otters of the Chilly Pacific:

Tara was feeling peckish and decided to snack on a glass of turmeric milk and an apple. The cold weather made her hungrier than usual. This reminded her of the cute, furry sea otters, members of the weasel family. These creatures spend most of their days diving for food and eating. Since they live in the chilly Pacific and lack a blubber layer to protect them from the cold, they have the thickest fur of any animal. They eat about 25 to 35 percent of their body weight each day to burn the calories needed for metabolism and body heat.

Hi!  
I am Tara



Tara dreamed of going to the coast of California to see these wonderful creatures, but she knew that sea otters were being hunted for their fur and slowly wiped out. That would be sad, she thought. However, she remembered reading in a magazine that sea urchins were the favorite food of sea otters, and that sea urchins themselves ate kelp, a large, brown algae that grew in cool, shallow waters close to the shore. Tara found sea otters fascinating because they used a tool - a stone - to crack open the shell of their prey, the sea urchin. They stored the stone in a loose patch of skin under their armpit. Although they were soft and cuddly, sea otters had strong teeth and a powerful bite. Tara





realized it would be a good idea to watch them from a distance.

Tara thought about the impact of sea otters on the ecosystem. If sea otters were wiped out, there would be lots of sea urchins eating up all the kelp, which meant that all marine animals that relied on kelp for food and shelter would also be wiped out. Kelp forest was like a rainforest under the coastal sea, absorbing up to 0.18 kilograms per square meter of carbon from the atmosphere.

Tara understood that the importance of the sea otter could not be underestimated. They needed to be preserved and protected from hunting and oil spills. Oil in coastal waters tended to stick to the furry coats of the sea otter, which destroyed the insulating property of their fur. This caused the otters to die from exposure to cold

temperatures. They also gulped oil along with water, which was poisonous. Tara was perplexed about why people killed such defenseless animals to make a warm jacket from their fur. But she knew that there were good people too, like researchers who were striving hard to save these creatures. After all, our delicate ecosystem needed all the animals to keep it in balance.



*Let's Save* creatures

## New Words

1. **Peckish**- feeling slightly hungry
2. **Thickest**- having the greatest width or depth
3. **Insulating**- providing protection against heat loss or transfer

Find other new and interesting words for each other, and write their meanings in your notebooks.

## Comprehension

1. Which animal has the thickest fur among all animals?
2. What is the reason behind sea otters eating a lot?
3. What is the preferred food of otters?
4. What is the food of choice for sea urchins?
5. Where do otters keep a stone?
6. What is the purpose of this stone for otters?

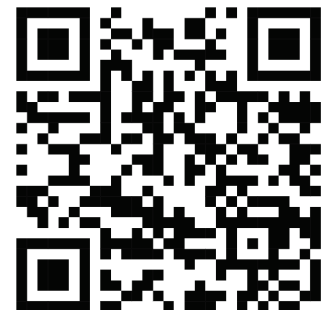
Take turns to make more questions like these above for each other and answer them.

## Prompts Pair up

1. Use an atlas to locate California.
2. Draw and color a sea otter, and write down the different parts of its body (such as fur, flippers, and teeth).
3. **Sea Otter Ecosystem Research:** Research the sea otters, their unique habitat in the Pacific, and their role in maintaining the kelp forest ecosystem. Investigate the threats they face, such as hunting for fur, oil spills, and climate change. Prepare a presentation to share with your class, highlighting the importance of sea otters, their role in

the ecosystem, and the challenges they face. Discuss potential solutions or conservation efforts that can help protect sea otters and their habitats.

Watch the video on the The Furry Sea of Chilly Pacific using the QR code.



Watch Videos On:

[www.YouTube.com/GlobalDream](http://www.YouTube.com/GlobalDream)



Follow Us On Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/GlobalDream2F2E](http://www.facebook.com/GlobalDream2F2E)

[dignityeducation.org](http://dignityeducation.org)

740 840 6000



**DEVI  
SANSTHAN**

Dignity Education  
Vision International

*Leave no one behind*

Global Dream Disruptive Literacy is a non-profit initiative of  
DEVI Sansthan: Dignity, Education, Vision International  
10 Station Road, Lucknow 226001, UP, INDIA