

Dear Parents,

Children are naturally curious about the world around them, and curiosity is a powerful motivation for reading—and for success in school. Studies show that by understanding relationships among words, children quickly acquire new and interesting vocabulary. And the more they are able to talk about the world around them, the more they want to learn!

As you read with your child, be sure to point out the vocabulary tree. Discuss the categories of words and how they relate to one another. Then, explore the text together. Encourage your child to point out each of the vocabulary words as they appear in the text. You'll be surprised how fast your early reader identifies content-rich vocabulary.

To sustain children's excitement about reading, we have created a special program called **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS SUPER READERS.** As kids read each National Geographic Kids Reader, they cross off its picture on a free National Geographic Kids Super Readers poster that parents can download from kids.nationalgeographic.com/superreaders.Throughout the process, kids and parents go to the website and download specially designated prizes that reward their effort. Kids can have even more reading fun online, with lively book-related activities, quizzes and games, fascinating excerpts, and sneak previews of upcoming books.

The National Geographic Kids Super Readers program appeals to kids' love of accomplishment while providing them with incentives to keep reading. When the reading experience is fun, children learn more and achieve more. What could be better than that?

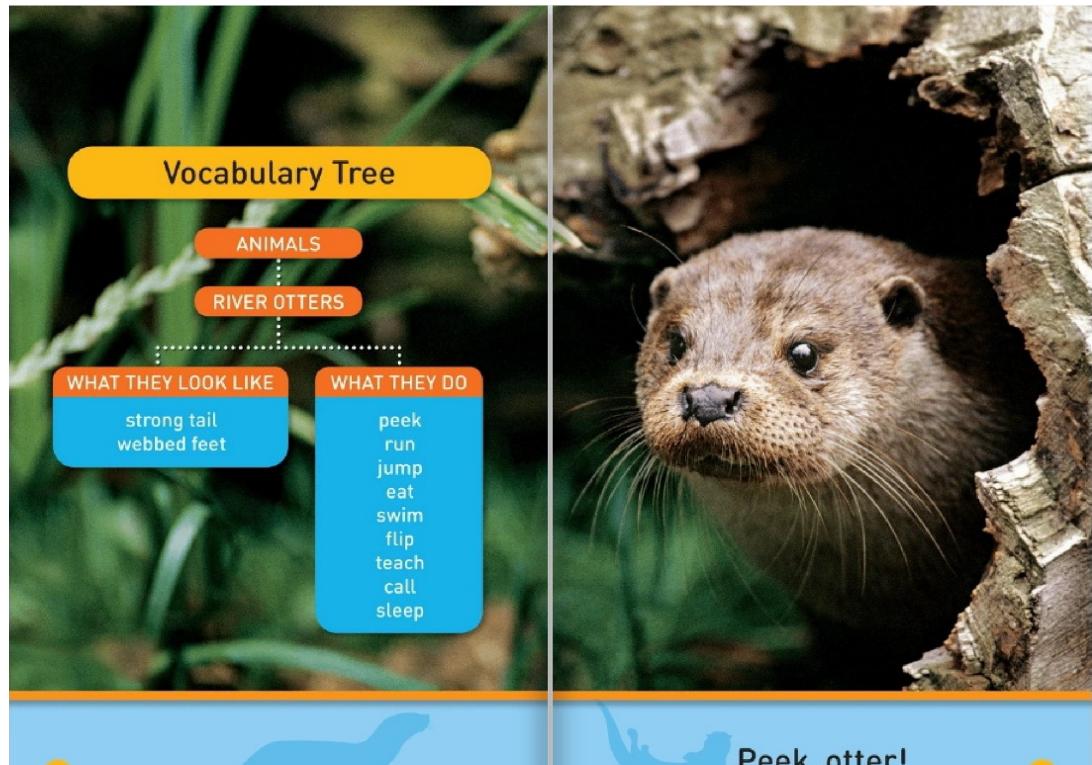
Sincerely,

Susan B. Neuman

Professor of Language and Literacy

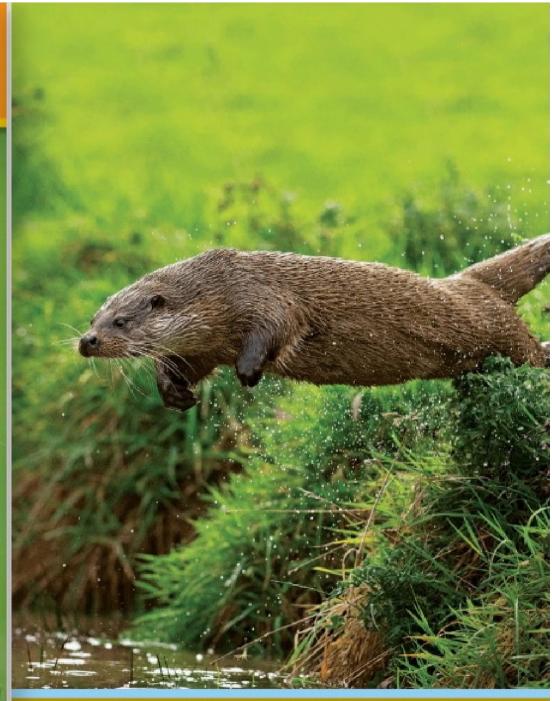
New York University





Run to the river.







Fish

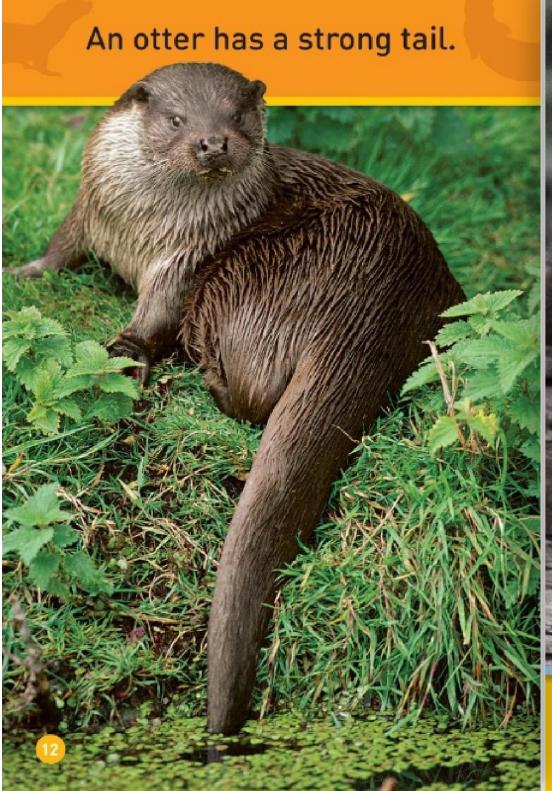




and crabs.

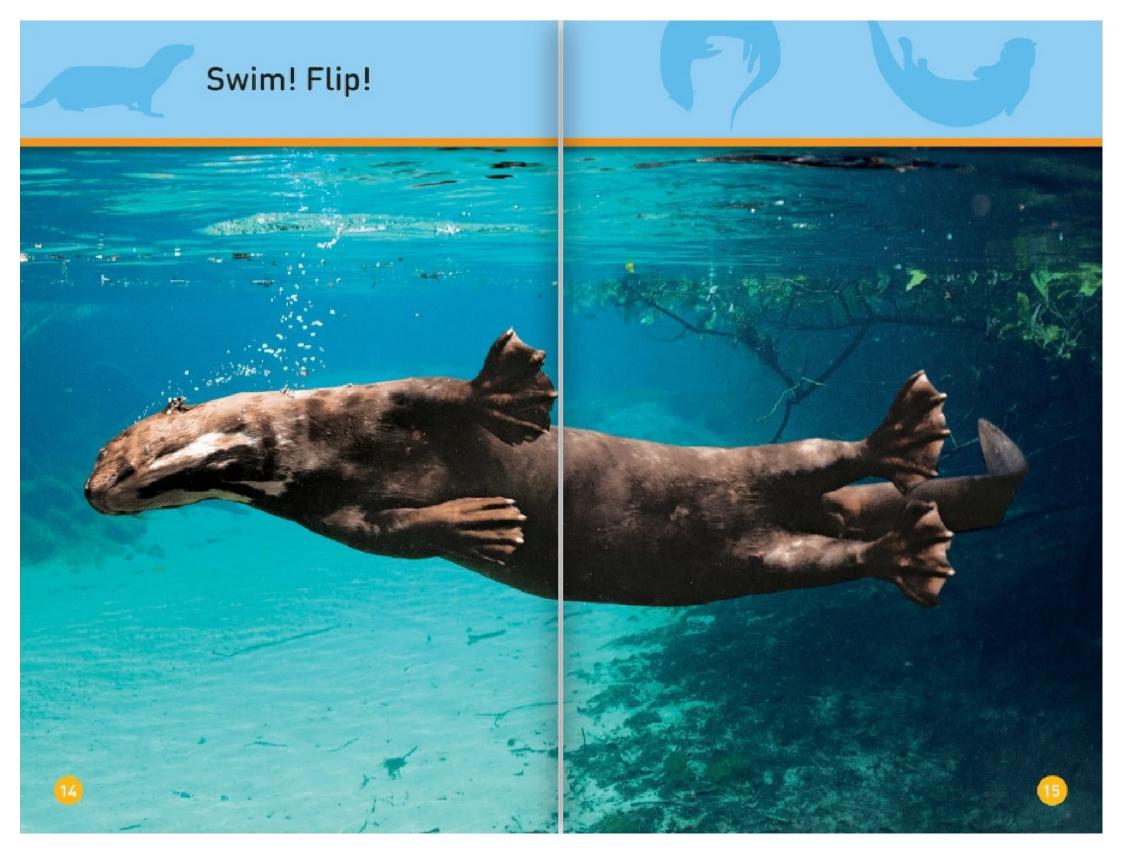




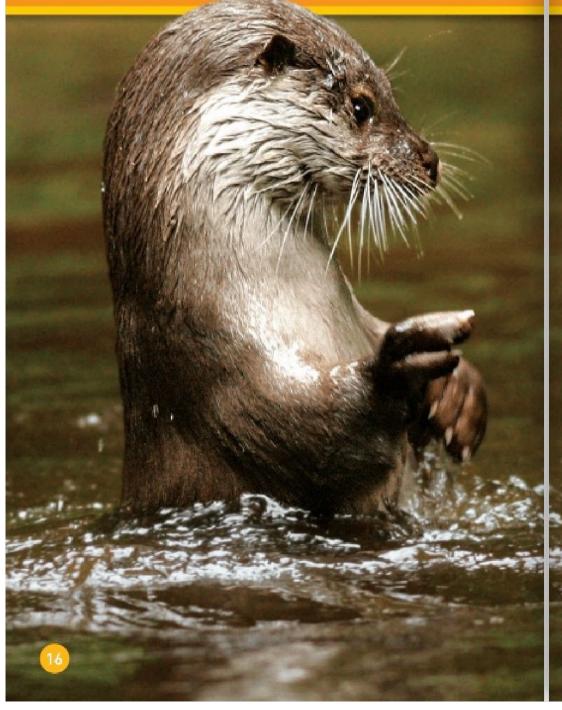




It has webbed feet.



This otter teaches its baby to find food.



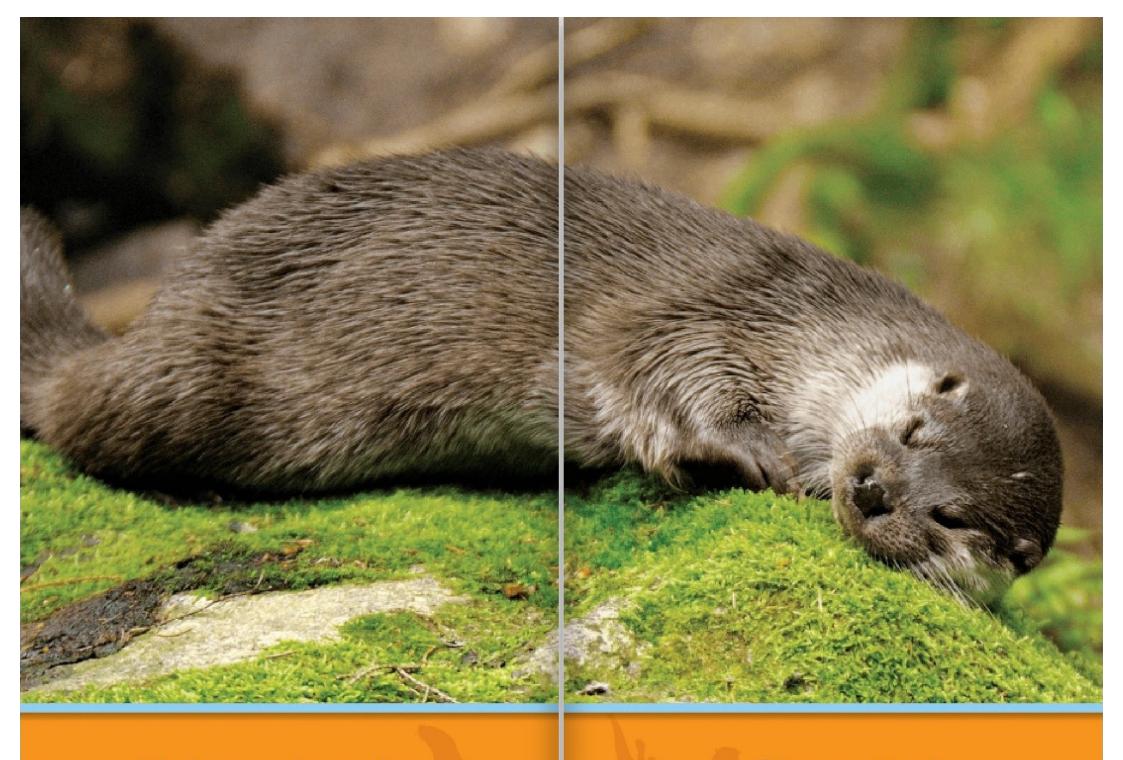


This otter calls out to its baby. Where is it?





Here it is!



YOUR TURN!

Otters teach their babies new things.

Adults teach kids new things, too.

What are these kids learning?











he answers are on the next page.