

WACKY WORDS



THE NORTH AMERICAN RIVER OTTER

Directions: Choose a word that fits the indicated part of speech on this page first; then, use the words you chose to fill in the blanks (in order) on the next page. Assume verbs are in the infinitive form unless otherwise indicated (ex: swim, run, eat). The present tense usually ends in -ing (ex: swimming, running, eating).

1. Adjective

2. Preposition

3. Pronoun

4. Adverb

5. Noun

6. Noun

7. Adjective

8. Noun (plural)

9. Noun (plural)

10. Adjective

11. Noun

12. Preposition

13. Adverb

14. Verb (present tense)

15. Verb

16. Adjective

17. Verb (present tense)

18. Verb (present tense)

19. Noun

20. Adverb

21. Noun

22. Noun (plural)

23. Conjunction

24. Verb

THE NORTH AMERICAN RIVER OTTER

One of the most 1. creatures in the Oklahoma Aquarium is the North American river otter (*Lontra canadensis*). As their name suggests, river otters can be found in aquatic habitats all 2. North America. 3. (do/does) not live in the ocean, like their relative, the sea otter. River otters are 4. mistaken for sea otters but the two differ in body size, limb shape, and 5. morphology. River otters only grow to be about one-fourth the size of a sea 6.. While sea otters have 7. hind flippers, river otters have four limbs of equal size. River otters also have longer, more rounded 8. than sea otters have.

River otters have many 9. that make them better swimmers. These adaptations include 10. tails, webbed feet, and a third 11., known as a nictitating membrane, that covers the eyes so they can see 12. the water.

River otters typically live 13. or in pairs, but spend significant amounts of time 14. in groups. They slide, roll, and 15., making them one of the most 16. adult animals. Some research suggests that playing is important for 17. their 18. strategy, so otters tend to play more when 19. is abundant. River otters are carnivores and they 20. hunt for 21., but they will eat any meat they can find, including frogs, crayfish, 22., insects, birds, 23. even small mammals. They have a very fast metabolism so they must 24. a lot!