

World Otter Day: Code Cracker Challenge



Acquire the World Otter Day Mystery Word and unlock the bonus activity. Complete the challenges to crack the code.

Challenge #1: Otter Word Search

There are many different species of otter found around the world. Hidden in this Word Search are the different otter species' names. The word *otter* can be found many times. Circle the answers as you find them. Make sure to count how many times you find the word *otter*. Answers can be horizontal, vertical and diagonal.

N	S	B	T	K	P	S	A	E	S	B	Q	A	N	M	W	U	O	T	T	E	R	C
V	O	F	G	A	P	S	P	O	T	T	E	D	N	E	C	K	E	D	N	C	P	O
S	T	R	E	D	C	V	A	T	Q	S	Y	R	V	X	N	Q	D	G	H	U	I	N
A	T	U	T	R	J	K	B	T	L	P	S	O	T	T	E	R	W	N	I	P	X	G
F	E	Q	Z	H	M	L	P	E	O	K	M	N	J	I	Y	H	B	V	G	T	R	O
R	R	F	C	X	A	D	E	R	W	Q	O	A	Z	P	I	Y	R	E	Q	S	F	C
I	H	K	P	M	B	M	C	Z	N	E	O	T	R	O	P	I	C	A	L	N	V	L
C	X	E	A	D	G	J	E	L	O	U	T	E	Q	T	P	L	A	Z	M	N	X	A
A	S	U	K	O	W	E	I	R	J	D	H	C	B	T	V	M	W	E	L	R	K	W
N	T	R	O	T	T	E	R	J	I	Y	C	H	U	E	G	I	G	F	O	D	P	L
C	A	A	Z	P	X	I	C	U	V	C	O	Y	B	R	T	N	R	I	L	E	W	E
L	Q	S	G	H	F	J	D	K	S	L	A	A	H	Z	M	X	N	C	A	B	O	S
A	V	I	Q	M	A	R	I	N	E	P	T	N	O	A	W	I	U	E	R	N	T	S
W	Y	A	K	C	O	T	T	E	R	K	E	I	R	M	I	B	E	R	L	Y	T	I
L	S	N	A	W	E	F	O	M	X	R	D	O	G	I	S	R	Z	O	A	T	E	L
E	A	N	T	A	G	A	O	P	R	E	I	L	A	P	V	R	Y	I	M	A	R	T
S	E	A	S	I	A	N	S	M	A	L	L	C	L	A	W	E	D	N	T	H	E	P
S	P	L	E	A	R	O	E	S	T	A	N	I	O	C	A	B	R	U	O	T	B	E
O	I	N	G	O	N	T	G	R	O	U	S	D	N	T	S	M	B	D	Y	S	O	E
H	T	J	D	K	A	T	L	C	X	Z	Q	Y	R	F	T	K	I	O	T	T	E	R
S	F	T	K	I	Y	E	W	M	R	A	C	T	L	L	E	E	B	A	O	F	F	D
U	R	V	E	I	W	R	G	K	S	O	U	T	H	E	R	N	R	I	V	E	R	N
L	C	N	R	R	U	S	B	E	X	A	P	S	O	D	I	F	U	G	Y	H	T	J
R	L	W	Q	N	E	D	S	E	A	O	T	T	E	R	A	V	U	J	N	C	X	R

Word Bank

African clawless	Giant	North American river	Spotted necked
Asian small-clawed	Hairy nosed	Sea	Otter
Congo clawless	Marine	Smooth coated	Eurasian
Neotropical			Southern river

Code Cracker Clue #1a: How many times did you find the word *otter*? (Hint: The total number of otter species)

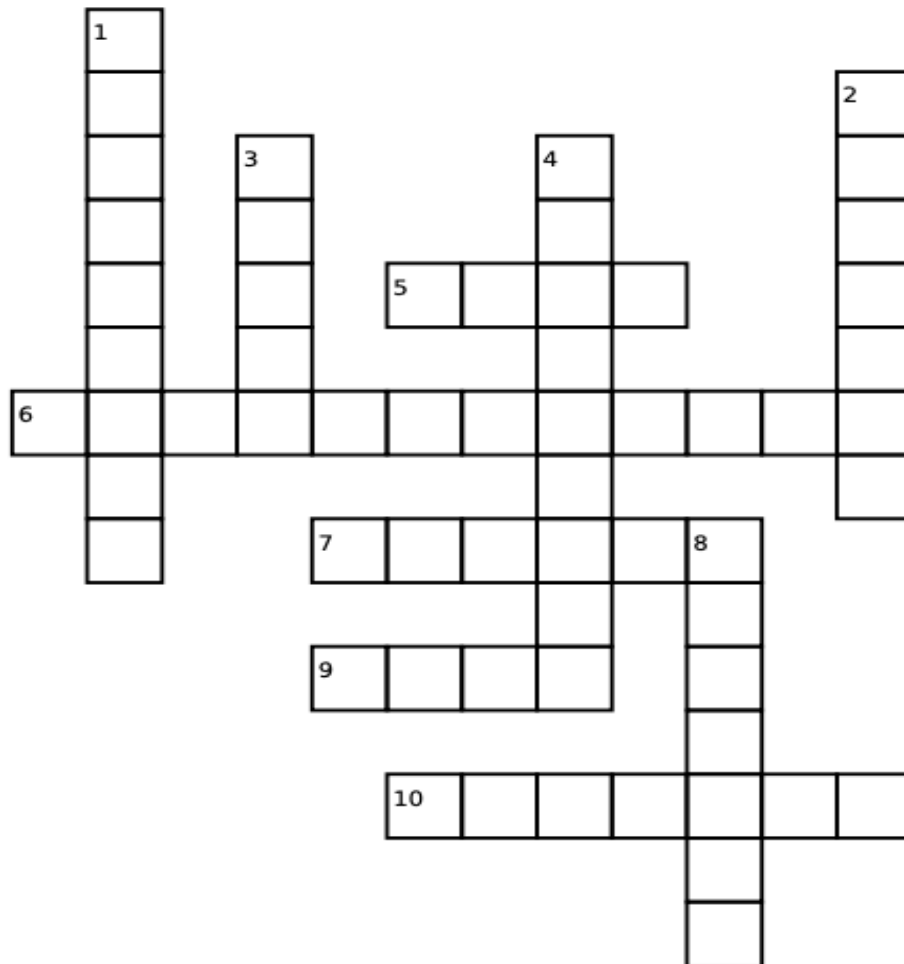
Code Cracker Clue #1b: How many columns are in the Word Search game board?

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Challenge #2: Otter Crossword Puzzle

Time to test your otter knowledge! Use the giant otter information webpage (<https://zooatlanta.org/animal/giant-otter/>) to complete the otter-themed crossword puzzle.



Down:

1. As a top predator in their aquatic ecosystem, what nickname are giant otters known by?
2. Otters are _____. This means they are awake and active during the day.
3. What species of otter is at Zoo Atlanta?
4. What group of mammals do otters belong to?
8. As their name suggests, giant otters are the _____ of all otter species.

Across:

5. What type of meat do otters primarily eat?
6. What continent do giant otters live on?
7. Otters spend a lot of time grooming, playing, resting, and hunting with other members of their family. They are _____ animals.
9. What are baby otters called?
10. How many different types of vocalizations do giant otters have?

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Code Cracker Clue #2a: What is the first letter of the answer for 1_Down?

Code Cracker Clue #2b: Find the answer that starts with P. How many letters are in that word?

Code Cracker Clue #2c: How many answers start with the letter S?

Challenge #3: Giant Otter Throat Patch Memory Match

Giant otters have white skin patches on their throats. Each otter has a unique throat patch design. Otters can use these patches to help identify otters. Scientists also use the throat patches to track otters in the wild.

Click on the following link to play the Throat Patch Memory Match created by the Otter Education Advisory Group.

<https://www.freememorygame.com/?dn=Otter%20Throat%20Patch%20Match>

Code Cracker Clue #3a: How many tiles are on the Memory Match game board?

Code Cracker Clue #3b: How many pairs of throat patch matches were in the game? (Hint: Divide the total number of tiles by two)

Crack the Code

Put the clues together to discover the mystery word. Fill in your answer from each Code Cracker Clue:

1a 1b 2a 2b 2c 3a 3b

For answers involving numbers, use the following cipher to replace numbers with the correct letter:

1=L 2=I 3=J 4=A 5=K 6=Z 7=Y 8=W 9=H 10=T 11=C 12=C 13=S 14= D 15=F 16=G 17=0 18=Q
19=R 20=N 21=U 22=V 23=P 24=M 25=X 26=B

Replace the numbers with letters and reveal the World Otter Day Mystery Word. Giant otters mark their territory by spreading their scent using their:

To check your answers and discover the bonus activity, see the answer key below.

Recap *Have a conversation about what you saw/did and questions your child may have.*

- How many different species of otters are found around the globe? What are some of the different names of the species?
- What new fun facts about otters did you learn today?
- How can otters and scientists tell individual otters apart? What trait is unique to every human?

World Otter Day:

Code Cracker Challenge



It takes a team.... join ours

Help us save species by joining the “Zoo Conservation Corps” and raise awareness about wild animals, their habitats and why conserving both is so important. If your family members are on social media, post to show what you have learned, and use the hashtag #OnlyZooATL so that we can see all your great work!

Want to know more...

- To learn more about giant otters and what organizations are doing to protect this species in the wild, visit Save The Giants, Inc., at <https://savethegiants.org/>
- Visit the International Otter Survival Fund website to learn more about all otter species: <https://www.otter.org/Public/>

World Otter Day: Code Cracker Challenge



STOP! Answers to the Code Cracker Challenges lie ahead. Don't peek until you've completed the challenges or need some hints.

Challenge #1: Otter Word Search Answer Key

N	S	B	T	K	P	S	F	E	S	B	Q	A	N	M	W	U	O	T	T	E	R	C
V	O	F	G	A	P	S	P	O	T	T	E	D	N	E	C	K	E	D	N	C	P	O
S	T	R	E	D	C	V	A	T	Q	S	Y	R	V	X	N	Q	D	G	H	U	I	N
A	T	U	T	R	J	K	B	T	L	P	S	O	T	T	E	R	W	N	I	P	X	G
F	E	Q	Z	H	M	L	P	E	O	K	M	N	J	I	Y	H	B	V	G	T	R	O
R	R	F	C	X	A	D	E	R	W	Q	O	A	Z	P	I	Y	R	E	Q	S	F	C
I	H	K	P	M	B	M	C	Z	N	E	O	T	R	O	P	I	C	A	L	N	V	L
C	X	E	A	D	G	J	E	L	O	U	T	E	Q	T	P	L	A	Z	M	N	X	A
A	S	U	K	O	W	E	I	R	J	D	H	C	B	T	V	M	W	E	L	R	K	W
N	T	R	O	T	T	E	R	J	I	Y	C	H	U	E	G	I	G	F	O	D	P	L
C	A	A	Z	P	X	I	C	U	V	C	O	Y	B	R	T	N	R	I	L	E	W	E
L	Q	S	G	H	F	J	D	K	S	L	A	A	H	Z	M	X	N	C	A	B	O	S
A	V	I	Q	M	A	R	I	N	E	P	T	N	O	A	W	I	U	E	R	N	T	S
W	Y	A	K	C	O	T	T	E	R	K	E	I	R	M	I	B	E	R	L	Y	T	I
L	S	N	A	W	E	F	O	M	X	R	D	O	G	I	S	R	Z	O	A	T	E	L
E	A	N	T	A	G	A	O	P	R	E	I	L	A	P	V	R	Y	I	M	A	R	T
S	E	A	S	I	A	N	S	M	A	L	L	C	L	A	W	E	D	N	T	H	E	P
S	P	L	E	A	R	O	E	S	T	A	N	I	O	C	A	B	R	U	O	T	B	E
O	I	N	G	O	N	T	G	R	O	U	S	D	N	T	S	M	B	D	Y	S	O	E
H	T	J	D	K	A	T	L	C	X	Z	Q	Y	R	F	T	K	I	O	T	T	E	R
S	F	T	K	I	Y	E	W	M	R	A	C	T	L	L	E	E	B	A	O	F	F	D
U	R	V	E	I	W	R	G	K	S	O	U	T	H	E	R	N	R	I	V	E	R	N
L	C	N	R	R	U	S	B	E	X	A	P	S	O	D	I	F	U	G	Y	H	T	J
R	L	W	Q	N	E	D	S	E	A	O	T	T	E	R	A	V	U	J	N	C	X	R
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
								0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	3	

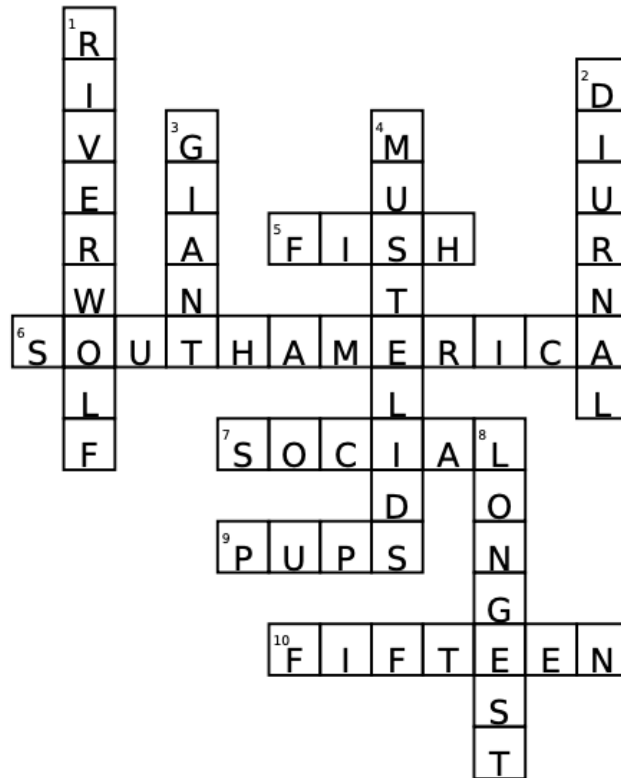
Code Cracker Clue #1a: The word *otter* is found 13 times. (There are 13 different otter species).

Code Cracker Clue #1b: There are 23 columns on the Word Search game board.

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Challenge #2: Otter Crossword Puzzle Answer Key



Code Cracker Clue #2a: The first letter of the answer for 1_Down is **R** (*River wolf*).

Code Cracker Clue #2b: There are **4 letters** is the word *pups*.

Code Cracker Clue #2c: **Two answers** start with the letter S (*South America and Social*).

Challenge #3: Giant Otter Throat Patch Memory Match Answer Key

Code Cracker Clue #3a: There are **20 tiles** on the Memory Match game board.

Code Cracker Clue #3b: There are **10 pairs** of throat patch matches in the game?

World Otter Day: Code Cracker Challenge



Crack the Code Answer Key

Put the clues together to discover the mystery word. Fill in your answer from each Code Cracker Clue:

1a=13 1b=23 2a=R 2b=4 2c=2 3a=20 3b=10

For answers involving numbers, use the following cipher to replace numbers with the correct letter:

1=L 2=I 3=J 4=A 5=K 6=Z 7=Y 8=W 9=H 10=T 11=C 12=C 13=S 14= D 15=F 16=G 17=0 18=Q
19=R 20=N 21=U 22=V 23=P 24=M 25=X 26=B

Replace the numbers with letters and reveal the World Otter Day Mystery Word. Giant otters mark their territory by spreading their scent using their:

S P R A I N T

Congratulations! You cracked the code and discovered the World Otter Day Mystery Word!

Bonus Activity: *Sprainting* like an Otter!

“Spraint” is the special word for otter poop! Otter families will poop in the same location, called a latrine. In addition, giant otters will “finger paint” with their spraint to mix it in with the rest of the family group. By doing this, they can spread their scent and mark their territory to keep away other family groups of otters.

In honor of our Mystery Word, the bonus activity will be “Sprainting” like an Otter! You and your family can mark your territory by creating your own otter spraint latrine.

Instructions:

1. Choose your latrine surface. Options include one large piece of paper, multiple smaller pieces of paper, an old blanket or cloth sheet, or the driveway.
2. Choose your spraint material. Options include any non-toxic paint, dirt and water for a muddy “paint,” or sidewalk chalk.
3. Choose your color and start sprainting. If possible, have every family member choose a different color to mix in the “latrine.” Use your fingers to spread the color over the chosen surface.
4. If your family members are on social media, share with us using #OnlyZooATL.

*Sprainting activity adapted from Otter Education Advisory Group’s World Otter Day education packet.