

My Ocean Book on Sea Otter



Written by Simon

Hello fellow students. My name is Simon and I'm a 5th grade student at an elementary school in Watsonville. I'm in a special class where we are learning about *oceans* and I'd like to share with you about what *oceans* are, how *important* they are, and an *animal* of particular interest to me, Sea otter.



About me...

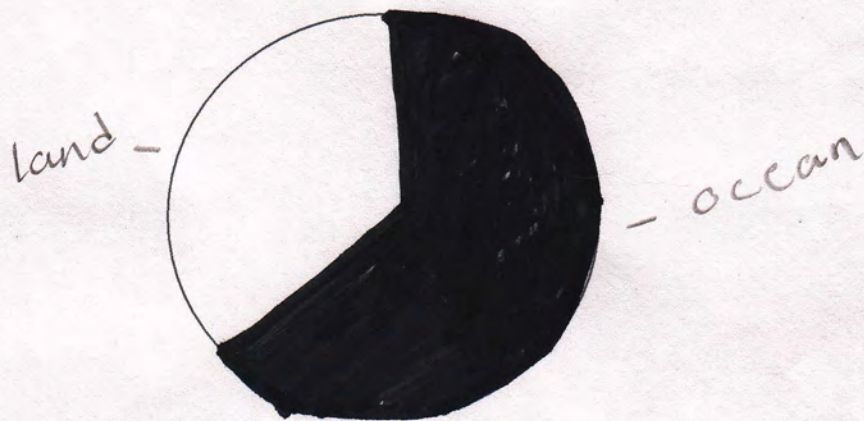
But before I start my book, I'd like to share with you about some of my favorite things.

I like soccer, art, music, and
horror movies.



Okay, now I'm ready to write about what *oceans* are, their *importance*, and facts about one of my favorite *animals*, sea otter.

First, *oceans* are essentially the largest ecosystem on planet earth, covering 67% of earth's surface.



pie chart

percentage

67%

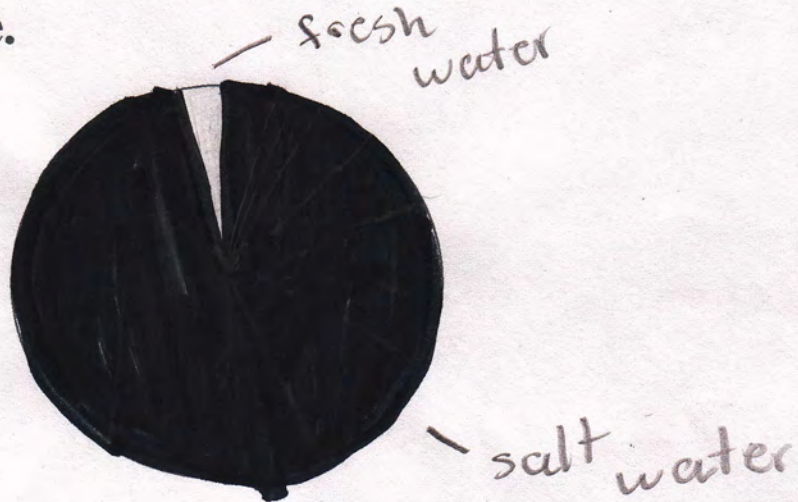
fraction

$\frac{2}{3}$

decimal

0.67

Second, 97% of Earth's water is salt water! That means only 3% of Earth's water is fresh water. We *all* must conserve and protect this precious resource.



pie chart

percentage

97%

fraction

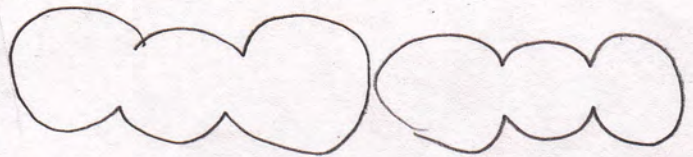
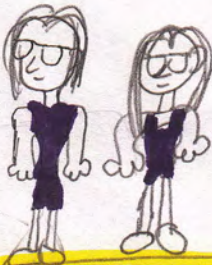
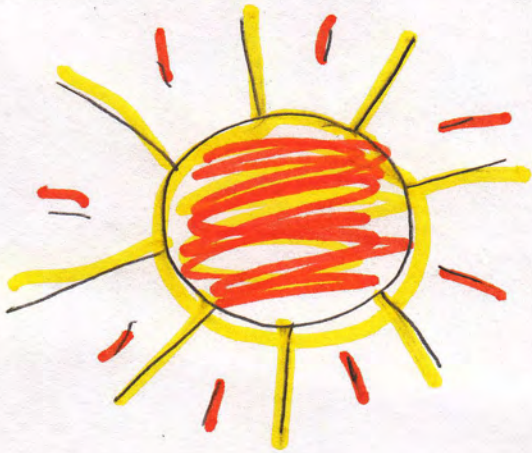
$\frac{97}{100}$

decimal

0.97

Third, we are very fortunate to live near the ocean. It serves many *important* purposes, such as:

- regulates temperatures along Coast
- habitat for marine plants & animals.
- Phytoplankton supplies 60% of oxygen
- Provides food for people



Fourth, there is a particular *animal* of interest to me, namely the Sea otter. I chose this *animal* because it's smart; it also uses tools like humans.



In the following paragraphs, I will briefly discuss what I researched about my animal of interest, the sea otter. I will cover the following: classification, common name, scientific name, physical characteristics, behavior, if the animal camouflages, adaptations, range, migratory, population, status, reproduction, habitat, prey, predators, where animal fits in food web, and whether the Ohlone Indians used the animal for food, clothing, or other purposes.

I hope you enjoy the book!



Classification

The Sea otter is a vertebrate because it has a backbone. It is classified as a mammal because it gives live births, it has fur, it's warm blooded, & breathes air.



Names

The Sea otter has two names. The common name is Sea otter, and the scientific name is Enhydra lutris.

In science, the *scientific name* is the genus and species of the animal or plant.

Physical characteristics... my animal looks like...

My animal is brown, small
furry and has whiskers.
It has 1 million hairs per
square inch!



Camouflage...does my animal blend into its environment?

After looking at my animal and reading more about it, I realize that it does not
camouflage in the kelp
forest.

Adaptations

My animal is unique because it can
use a rock on its
belly to open the
shell fish.



Animal behavior

The way I would describe the behavior of my
animal is unusual. It covers its
eyes with its paws when it
wants to take a nap during
the day.

Range

The Sea otter is found in the
pacific ocean.

_____.



Migratory...does it travel from one location to another during seasons?

The Sea otter doesn't migrate. For example, the sea otters in the
California are called the southern
sea otters, and the sea otters
in Alaska and the Aleutian
islands are called Northern sea
otters.

Population

The population of my animal is 2,888
in California.



Status

The status of the sea otter tells me whether it is endangered, threatened, or stable. What I found out is that the sea otter is threatened. I find this interesting because of oil spills in the ocean and the blue green algae from pinto lake to Corralitos creek, to the Pajaro river, and to the ocean. This algae gets absorbed by the shellfish, and when the sea otters eat the shellfish, they get poisoned and unfortunately die.

Reproduction

The reproduction of the Sea otter is
four months of pregnancy and
only has one baby a year.

Habitat...home

The Sea otter habitat is the
cold Pacific ocean.



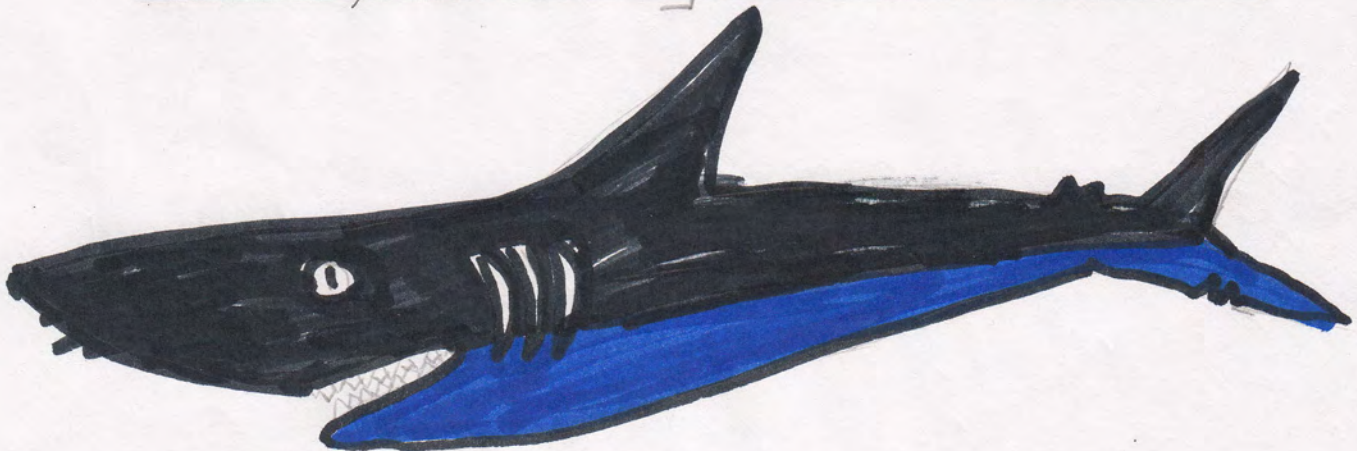
Prey and predator...(to eat and to be eaten)

The prey my animal eats are: sea urchins,
mussels, clams, abalone, mollusks,
crustaceans, and snails.

My animal eats other things such as:
_____.



The predators that eat me are: great white
sharks, stellars, sea lions, coyotes,
bears, and eagles.



Food web

My animal is a carnivore. The following picture demonstrates where my animal fits in the food web.



Ohlone Indians

I'm curious to see if the Ohlone Indians used the sea otter in anyway, for example, for food, clothing, or for other purposes. What I discovered is that it was not hunted by the Ohlone Indians, but it was hunted by the Russian explorers in the 1850's almost to extinction.



References

(books, articles, web-sites, etc.)

www.noaa.gov

www.wikipedia.com

[www.Seaotter Marine education.com](http://www.SeaotterMarineeducation.com)

Thank you for reading my book. I hope you enjoyed it and learned a lot about the Sea otter. Please feel free to *comment* about my book and also, test your knowledge by answering the following *questions* below. I look forward to hearing from you.

Comments for me:

Questions for you: *(See if you can answer these?)*

1. How many animals does the sea otter eat?
2. What does the sea otter prey on?
3. What eats the sea otter?