



Sea Otter Kelp Bed Card

As a keystone species, sea otters keep their ecosystem in balance by eating sea urchins. After diving down into the kelp forest, an otter will grab a sea urchin and return to the surface to open its meal with strong teeth. This keeps the sea urchin population in check and helps the kelp forest ecosystem stay healthy. Create your own card with a floating sea otter in a kelp bed!

Materials

Paper
Sea otter and sea urchin template (page 2)
Crayons, colored pencils, or markers
Scissors
Glue

Directions

1. **Print** the sea otter and sea urchin template on page 2.
2. **Color and cut** out your sea otter and sea urchin.
3. **Cut** along the dotted line on the sea otter's paw.
4. **Glue** the sea urchin under the sea otter's paw.
5. **Fold** a piece of paper in half horizontally and color it as the ocean.
6. **Draw and cut** out kelp leaves. Glue them in the ocean for the sea otter to float on. Think about the kelp forest habitat:
 - a. Why would a sea otter float above the kelp forest?
 - b. What other animals live in this habitat?
7. **Glue** the sea otter on top of the kelp leaves.
8. *Optional:* Write your favorite fact about otters (or the ocean) on the back of the card.



