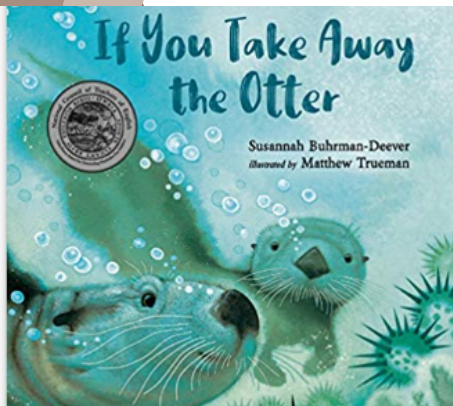


CONNECTIONS TO SCIENCE GUIDES

GEORGIA YOUTH SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CENTERS, INC.



IF YOU TAKE AWAY THE OTTER BY: SUSANNAH BURHMAN-DEEVER



ASK

- Have you ever seen an otter? What do you know about otters?
- Why are otters an important part of their ecosystem?
- What would happen if we took the otters out of an ecosystem?
- Have you ever thought about being a zoologist?

EXPLORE ECO-MAZE-ING

Materials:

- 1 marble
- 1 piece of construction paper
- 3 pipe cleaners
- Otter Food Web
- Scissors
- Tape

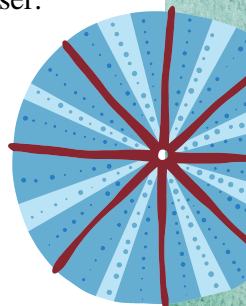


Directions:

- Begin by cutting down the size of the Otter Food Web.
- Tape it down in the center of a piece of construction paper. Fold up the ends of the construction paper to make a border.
- Using the pipe cleaners, create a maze that shows the flow of energy through the Otter Food Web. Remember to start with the sun and include at least one producer, one consumer, and one decomposer.
- When your maze is finished, place the marble in it and watch the energy flow.
- As you work, think about:
 - How many different ways can energy flow through this ecosystem?
 - What would happen if one of the plants or animals was removed from the ecosystem?

Fun Facts:

- Sea otters have the thickest fur of any animal.
- Sea otters can hold their breath for up to 5 minutes underwater.



EXPLAIN ECOSYSTEMS

Energy is cycled in ecosystems through food chains and food webs. All food webs start with the sun. Plants are producers. Animals are consumers. Decomposers, like bacteria, break down dead plants and animals. Every living and nonliving thing in an ecosystem plays an important role and if that balance is disrupted, organisms in that ecosystem may not survive.



BACKGROUND

The Georgia Youth Science and Technology Centers, Inc. provides quality programs for teachers of STEM subjects that improve the teaching and learning process at the kindergarten through eighth grade levels. We present programs that change students' perceptions and inspire an appreciation for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects.

ABOUT US

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EXTEND

NORTH GEORGIA WILDLIFE & SAFARI PARK



The North Georgia Wildlife & Safari Park offers Otter Experiences where you can learn about otters up close and personal. Visit <https://www.northgeorgiazoo.com/> or plan a trip today!

STEM CAREER

ZOOLOGIST

A zoologist is a scientist who studies animals in the wild and captivity. At work, zoologists identify and monitor species, research, and communicate their findings. Zoologists can work for zoos, aquariums, wildlife parks, or museums. If you are interested in animals, being a zoologist might be for you!



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