Research Skills

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Research means finding facts in good sources. Good researchers take short **notes** in their own words and sort them by question.

Notes, not sentences: *Sea otters hold hands when they sleep.* → **hold hands – sleep**



1. Choose a good source

Circle the best place to find each fact.

1. Where would you find true facts about sea otters?

- (a) A comic book about a pirate otter
- (b) An encyclopedia or animal website
- (c) A cookbook

2. You want to know how many legs a spider has. Which is best?

- (a) A science book about spiders
- (b) A spooky story
- (c) Your friend's guess

3. Which sentence is a good note?

- (a) Sea otters are so cute and I love them!
- (b) thick fur keeps warm
- (c) Otters are my favourite.

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Sea Otters



Sea otters live in the cold ocean along the coasts of the North Pacific. They spend almost their whole lives in the water. When they sleep, they float on their backs and sometimes hold paws so they do not drift apart. A group of resting otters is called a raft.

Sea otters do not have blubber like whales. Instead, they have the thickest fur of any animal, which keeps them warm. They spend hours each day cleaning and fluffing their fur.

Sea otters eat sea urchins, crabs, clams and snails. An otter may float on its back, put a rock on its tummy and bang a clam against it to crack the shell. Sea otters are one of the few animals that use tools.

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2. Take notes

Read the article. Write short notes under each question.

Where do sea otters live?

How do they stay warm?

What do they eat?

Amazing facts

3. Your turn: plan your own research

Pick an animal. Write three questions you want to answer, and where you will look.

My animal

My questions

Where I will look

Answer Key

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1. Choose a good source

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- **b. An encyclopedia or animal website**
- c. A cookbook

2. You want to know how many legs a spider has. Which is best?

- **a. A science book about spiders**
- b. A spooky story
- c. Your friend's guess

3. Which sentence is a good note?

- a. Sea otters are so cute and I love them!
- **b. thick fur keeps warm**
- c. Otters are my favourite.

2. Take notes

Where do sea otters live?

cold ocean, North Pacific coasts; almost always in water

How do they stay warm?

thickest fur of any animal; no blubber; clean and fluff fur

What do they eat?

sea urchins, crabs, clams, snails

Amazing facts

hold paws when sleeping; group = raft; use rocks to crack shells

3. Your turn: plan your own research

Sample notes. Answers will vary.

My animal

Penguins

My questions

Where do penguins live? What do they eat? How do they keep their eggs warm?

Where I will look

A library book about penguins and a zoo website