

Otter Challenge



Say hello to Ben and Jerry the sea otters!

This playful pair can't wait to help you dive in, splash about and discover all the furry fun of the 13 otter species! Are you ready?

For even more programme ideas check out our 'Otter' board over on
www.Pinterest.com/PawprintFamily

#AdventureForAll
www.PawprintFamily.com

Meet the FAMILY

Hi there! We're Charlotte & Jamie, the husband and wife team behind the Pawprint Family and we believe in #AdventureForAll.

It's our mission to help leaders, teachers and parents save time by providing ideas and opportunities to help them deliver everyday adventure and skills for life. We do this through our family of brands; find out more below and head to the website for your next adventure!



PAWPRINT BADGES

Pawprint Badges provides thousands of free activity ideas and resources to help leaders, teachers and parents deliver fun and adventure.

Every activity helps you share skills for life and is linked to one of our pawesome embroidered badges. Build your collection and celebrate adventures, new skills and knowledge gained.

PAWPRINT TRAILS

Pawprint Trails are treasure-hunt style walks around locations in the UK. Solve puzzles, track down the answers and explore everything our great country has to offer.

From historical sights to popular culture discover something new or rediscover a love for where you live then collect the badge to remember your adventures!

Whether you're looking for the perfect addition to your next family holiday or a few hours of fun with friends; each trail can be completed in a few hours or extended with our activity suggestions in to a weekend or a week's worth of fun!

PAWPRINT TALES

Pawprint Tales are fully illustrated stories that can be enjoyed by the whole family. Join Alfie (our fox-red Labrador) on his adventures around the UK – solving puzzles, turning detective and making new friends. With twists and turns, every tale is an opportunity to discover new places, people and history without needing to leave the comfort of your own home.

Enjoy Pawprint Tales alongside your Pawprint Trails or as a standalone adventure!

PAWPRINT TRUST

Every brand in the Pawprint Family supports the Pawprint Trust with a percentage of profits from every sale providing grants to young people. We're passionate about enabling young people to access life changing adventures.

Share your adventures and join us over on our social channels for even more adventures and a nosy behind the scenes at Pawprint HQ!



@pawprintfamily



@pawprint_family

PAWPRINT BADGES

You can view the extended terms of use on our website
www.pawprintfamily.com/terms-conditions



Craft

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BADGES**

- ✧ Sea otters have the most dense fur of any mammal with around 100,000 - 400,000 hairs per square centimetre. This fur helps keep them warm; make an item of clothing or accessory to keep you warm.
- ✧ Otters live in a burrow, known as a 'holt'. Make a sign for your bedroom door to halt any intruders.
- ✧ A group of otters is called a 'lodge' when on land. Build a model building/lodge using materials of your choice.
- ✧ Zoroastrians (religion) believed Otters helped purify water. Build your own water purification device i.e. a charcoal filter or water distiller.
- ✧ Use some tools and do some DIY, you could even make something for the kitchen.

Why?

Otters are known to use stones as tools to smash in to their food. Some otters have even been known to store a favourite rock in their armpit (though we're not suggesting you keep a screwdriver in yours)!

- ✧ On water a group of otters is called a 'raft'. Use recycled materials to build a model raft or have a go at building a life-sized raft to float yourself (and some friends) on water.
- ✧ Build a marble or water run; otters love to build slides down riverbanks.
- ✧ Create your own otterly adorable picture.
- ✧ Make a greetings card on an otter theme, there are loads of otter puns you could use; "my significant otter", "you're otterly amazing", "no otter like you."
- ✧ Sew or craft yourself an otter puppet and tell a story about otters, you could even share the things you've learned about otters while completing your badge.
- ✧ Paint a rock; you could make them into story stones, paint a kindness rock to hide in your local area or make an otter ornament for home.
- ✧ Complete another otter themed craft of your choice.
- ✧ Build a model riverbank to show where you might find an otter living in the UK. You can find more information on otter habitats online.



Food

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- ✳ Otters are fish hunters; learn to gut and fillet a fish to prepare it for cooking.
- ✳ Otters happily eat crustaceans. Have a go at cooking and/or tasting some crab, crayfish, shrimp or prawns.
- ✳ Signal crayfish (or American crayfish) are an invasive, non-native species in the UK. They are part of the otter food chain. Find out more about how they're affecting the native crayfish and how you can identify them.
- ✳ Eels are a favourite food of otters; taste eel or have a go at cooking with it before trying it. What do you think?
- ✳ Amphibians become part of an otters diet in spring; try frogs legs and go all French...ooh la la!
- ✳ What does 15% of your bodyweight look like in food? How many pizzas is it equivalent to? How many bags of crisps? Otters can eat up to 15% of their bodyweight daily! Could you eat 15% of your bodyweight?
- ✳ Make baked Alaska.

What/Why?

Baked Alaska is a dessert of ice cream and cake topped with browned meringue. 90% of all sea otters live on the coast of Alaska.

- ✳ Otters are carnivorous. Make any dish you like using a meat of your choice.
- ✳ Bake some otterly adorable cakes or biscuits, check out our Pinterest board for some ideas.
- ✳ What does 11kg of food look like? A large male sea otter may eat as much as 11kg of food daily...that's the same as 110 blueberry muffins!
- ✳ Compare the diet of a sea/coastal otter to that of a river otter, what are the differences? Why might that be?
- ✳ Otters are opportunists and will in fact catch a range of prey including rats, shrews, mice, voles and water birds! Make your own sugar mice or furry fondant friends.
- ✳ River otters also enjoy catching and eating salmon and trout. Have a go at fishing for your own food or cooking a piece of salmon or trout. Speak to your local fish monger for a recipe recommendation.



Games

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- ✧ Discover where different species of otter live and see if you can place them correctly on a map.
- ✧ Play a game of 'Who's is that poo?'

Why/What?

Otters use their poo (known as spraint) to communicate with other otters. Gather images of different animal poo and then see if you can identify who's is that poo?!

- ✧ Some scientists say that otter poo smells like jasmine tea! Use your nose to identify different smells or different teas.
- ✧ Other scientists describe the smell of otter poo like violets. Can you identify different flowers by their smell alone? Discover which flowers' scents are used commonly in perfume.
- ✧ Otters stick together when they sleep by holding paws or wrapping themselves in seaweed to stop themselves from drifting away. A group of otters in the water is called a raft. Play a game of RAFTS!

What?

A group game that's great for developing maths skills. Everyone in the group swims around the space as otters. The leader/caller shouts, "RAFTS of..." adding a number of their choice. The group must then split in to groups (or rafts) of this many otters. Any otters left over are out. The leader/caller can use their maths skills to work out how many the group is divisible by with 1 or 2 left over each round.

- ✧ Play some water based games with sponges and buckets or take a trip to your local swimming pool to have a game of water volleyball/similar so you can play like an otter. Maybe your local pool even has a slide so you can slip and slide like otters on a river bank!
- ✧ Otters are playful creatures; share or play your favourite game with friends or family members.
- ✧ In Bangladesh otters are trained to herd fish into fishing nets to help the fishermen maximise their catch. Create your own shoal of fish from inflated balloons and then time yourself to herd them in to your net (this could be a hula hoop stood between two chairs) simply by batting them with your hands (flippers).
- ✧ Can you break in to the pinata in the same way an otter breaks in to shellfish with a rock?



Other

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- ✧ Otters have webbed feet for swimming, try swimming with flippers. Was it easier/harder than you expected? What were the differences?
- ✧ Compare other animals that are part of the same mustelid family such as badgers, weasels, stoats, polecats, pine martens and mink (in the UK). What are the similarities? What are the differences?
- ✧ Visit an otter habitat such as a wetland, river or coastline. Why not see if you can spot any otters in the wild?
- ✧ The sea otter has the thickest fur of any mammal with up to 1 million hairs per square inch. Have a go at estimating how many hairs are on your head and/or have a go at doing some hair styles.
- ✧ Read some Native American legends about otters. You can find some at www.native-languages.org/legends-otter
- ✧ As we have discovered, otters are used to herd fish in to nets. Have a go at fishing yourself, you could even see how fishing nets are made.
- ✧ Build your own slip and slide using a tarpaulin, water and washing up liquid. This is ideal for the warmer weather and is great fun...we can totally see why otters enjoy building slides down the river banks!
- ✧ Complete your Badger Challenge badge; otters are an aquatic relative. Who knows, maybe Ben and Jerry are the long lost cousins of our very British Bertie badger?!
- ✧ Take a trip and visit a zoo or safari park to see otters for real.
- ✧ Adopt an otter! There are lots of different schemes running but our friends at The Wildlife Trusts have some great opportunities across the country. Find out more at www.wildlifetrusts.org/adopt-animal/adopt-otter
- ✧ Eurasian otters have been found above 4,000m in the Himalayas in Tibet; also home to the world's tallest mountain, Mount Everest. Take a hike up a mountain/peak close to you. How high did you get? How does it compare?
- ✧ Spotted Necked Otters are 'near-threatened'. Discover which other species of otters are endangered and why?
- ✧ African Clawless Otters weigh up to 22kg, that's the same as 7040 tea bags... what does this compare to?

Adventure Complete?

Reward your young adventurers with their Otter Challenge badge to **mark their achievements!** Head to the website to bag yours, download certificates and discover even more adventures!



Create a Keepsake!

Experienced **adventure**? Made **memories**? Then it's time to create a **keepsake**! Our Pawprint Family camp blankets are the perfect place to **sew your badges** and look back on them for years to come.



Personalise it!

Got your camp blanket? Then it's time to make it yours! Our alphabet badges are **big, bright and bold**...the perfect addition to your camp blanket, hoodies, bags and more. What will you personalise first?



Even More Rewards!

We're all about added value here at Pawprint Family. In addition to the 1000s of **free activity ideas** and resources you'll find **loyalty stickers** in every order and you can claim Children's University learning hours too!



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