

Otter



Otters

in Yellowstone National Park

Otters have long, slim bodies with short legs, webbed feet with short claws, small ears, and long, muscular, thick tails. They weigh two to 100 pounds and are two to six feet in length. They live in and around the water and eat mostly fish and shellfish, but also small mammals and birds. They have to eat 15 percent of their body weight a day to keep warm in cold waters. They spend most of the day hunting food. The whole family, including mother, father and siblings takes care of the babies, or pups. They live up to 16 years.

Otters in Yellowstone are found in the watery areas. They are safe to view, and often playful with each other.

What did you learn about the otters of Yellowstone?

1. Do otters have webbed feet? If so, why would this help them?

Yes. Webbed feet help them swim fast to catch fish.

2. How much do otters need to eat each day to keep warm?

Otters need to eat 15 percent of their body weight every day.

3. In otter families, who takes care of the pups?

The whole family, including older siblings, take care of the pups.

