



Save The River® / Upper St. Lawrence RIVERKEEPER®

Protecting the St. Lawrence River now, and for generations to come

My Little Book of Otters

Activities to deepen children's learning after the read.

This story lends itself nicely to various lessons and activities after the read. Various topics are listed below that can be adapted to many grade levels as well as touch upon a NYS Learning Standard.

Properties of Matter

Water is seen in various states within this book both solid and liquid. There is the water in the river where the otters live. During the winter otters experience ice and snow and even mud. Pages from the story can springboard into a conversation or activity about Matter.

Animal Species

This book features the diversity of life that lives in a healthy river habitat. The reader sees: a mammal, an insect, amphibian, reptile, fish, and bird. It can be fun to take a picture walk after the story allowing children to name these animals and extend their thinking by naming another river animal that lives in a river habitat. They may choose one animal to make a poster about or do a research report on – sharing their project with the group upon completion.

Seasons

This story runs through the seasons of a river habitat. It offers examples of the living things and what they are busy doing in each season. Children could use story recall and have fun making a poster depicting life along the river during each season. Extend the learning by having older children write a fact for each season.

Save The River envisions a healthy Upper St. Lawrence River that provides safe drinking water, is home to a thriving range of indigenous species and supports sustainable economic activity.

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Create a model

Materials: blue play doh, card stock, pebbles, paper or material scraps in various shades of green, blues, tans, and browns, crayons & markers.

Basic play doh recipe: 2 cups flour, $\frac{3}{4}$ Cup salt, 4 teaspoons cream of tartar, 2 cups warm water, 2 tablespoons veg. oil, blue food coloring. Mix- each child should get $\frac{1}{4}$ of this so make a lot!

Activity: Invite the children to depict a favorite scene from the story using the materials to create their river, habitat, and animals. Older children can write a few facts about their scene.

You may deepen this experience by asking children to depict, write, and talk about what a healthy habit needs.

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