



*Be Sea Otter Savvy* Vocabulary words:

**Adaptation:** an evolutionary adjustment in body form or behavior in order to survive in a particular environment. Since otters don't have blubber, they have adapted to have fur with approximately one million hairs per square inch.

**Blubber:** a layer of fat that protects most marine mammals from the cold ocean

**Carnivores:** An animal that feeds on other animals.

**Disturbance:** An interruption of cycle or change in behavior.

**Ecosystem:** All plants and animals that live in a particular area together with the complex relationship that exists between them and their environment.

**Foraging:** The act of searching for food

**Grooming:** The things that *you* do to make your appearance clean and neat (for example: brushing your hair and teeth), OR the things that animals do to keep their fur in good condition.

**Invertebrate:** Animals without backbones (Examples: crabs, urchins, sea stars, worms, clams, snails)

**Kelp:** A large brown seaweed. One species, giant kelp, is one of the fastest growing organisms on the planet and forms underwater forests off the California coast.

**Keystone Species:** A species that is comparatively rare but has a strong influence on its environment.

**Marine mammal:** a mammal that lives in the ocean. Examples from California: harbor seals, sea lions, elephant seals, dolphins, orcas, gray whales, humpback whales, sea otters.

**Metabolism:** the changes undergone by nutritive material in the body. Sea otters compensate for their lack of blubber by maintaining a high level of internal heat production. To "keep the furnace going" they eat the equivalent of 20-25 percent of their body weight daily.

**Predator:** An animal that hunts and feeds on other animals (see carnivore)

**Savvy:** Noun: the ability to make good judgments. Verb- know or understand