

National Geographic Kids Reader: Peek, Otter!

Notes for teachers: using this book in the classroom

Reading objectives: apply phonic knowledge and skills as the route to decode words; read words with contractions, and understand that the apostrophe represents the omitted letter(s); read common exception words, noting unusual correspondences between spelling and sound and where these occur in the word; discuss word meanings, linking new meanings to those already known; link what they read or hear to their own experiences

Spoken language objectives: give well-structured descriptions, explanations and narratives; use relevant strategies to build their vocabulary

Curriculum links: Science: Animals, including humans

Interest words: what's, it's, where, here, busy, webbed, feet, peek, flip

Children who are reading at Yellow and Blue book bands should be able to read the main text in this book and talk about the content and pictures with some support – for example, in a group or guided reading session, or when reading one-to-one with an adult.

Language

- The words describing each picture should be familiar to children reading at this level and may be read independently, but children may need help with the following:
 - Words with contractions, e.g. *what's, it's*
 - Pronouncing common exception words like *where, here, busy*
 - Less familiar vocabulary, e.g. *webbed feet*
- The use of exclamation marks and question marks and the impact they have on a sentence can be noticed and discussed.
- Less familiar vocabulary like '*peek*' and '*flip*' should be talked about to develop understanding. Children can think of other words to describe the otter looking and moving in the water.
- Reading questions and exclamations with expression can be modelled as you share the book.

Images

- Look at the image on the front cover and ask children to describe the otter and to suggest where the otter might live. Talk about what '*peek*' means. Notice how the otter is peeking at the reader.
- Look at the images of the otters and otter pups as you read. Develop children's vocabulary as you discuss their different features, e.g. on page 4, talk about how strong and fit the otter looks.

Collins

Activities

- Turn to pages 22 and 23. Help children to read the challenge. Discuss what otters teach their babies and find examples in the book. Challenge children to describe what is happening in boxes 1-4, then help them to read the answers on the next page. Can children think of anything else that their own parents teach them?

Questions

- What do otters like to eat?
- What do otters use their strong tails for?
- What helps the otter to swim in the water and hunt for food?
- What does flip mean and what other words can you think of to describe how otters move?
- What do otters teach their babies?