

Otter Obsessed!

A new exhibit featuring North American river otters is set to open this spring. Have you ever wondered how otters become such good swimmers? At the young age of 2 months old, baby otters are pushed into the water by their mothers and forced to figure it out. That might sound harsh, but with Mom's supervision, the baby otters are instant professionals!



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Eat Like an Otter

North American river otters primarily eat fish. Give this fun snack a try so you can eat like an otter.

What You'll Need:

- 2 three-ounce boxes of blue Jell-O
- Gummy fish
- 2 cups boiling water
- 2 cups cold water
- Clear plastic cups or Mason jars
- Toothpicks
- Whipped cream (optional)

Directions:

1. Mix the Jell-O according to the directions on the package.
2. Pour desired amount of Jell-O mix evenly into cups. Refrigerate for about two hours until it is soft set. It needs to be gelled enough that the fish won't sink to the bottom, but not so hard that you can't push them in.
3. Put desired amount of gummy fish in each cup of Jell-O. This part is a bit tricky. We found it was easiest to spear the fish with a toothpick and then use another toothpick to release it. You may want to put the fish a little higher because they could sink afterward.
4. Put cups back in fridge for another two hours to finish setting.
5. Add whipped cream to the top and serve. We added whipped cream to cover the imperfections from pushing the fish into the Jell-O. This snack should be served immediately after it is set. That way, the gummy fish will retain their texture. If they sit in the Jell-O too long, they will become soft.

Enjoy!





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Make Your Own Otter Puppet

Playtime is always better with a good puppet. It's even more fun when you get to craft it yourself!

What you'll need:

- A brown paper lunch bag
- Black marker
- Construction paper - brown, black and white
- Glue
- Scissors



Directions:

1. Using the marker, outline ears, arms, feet and tail on brown paper. Draw eyes on white paper. Outline the nose on black paper. You can find stencils for the body parts at zoosociety.org/otterpuppet, or try drawing them yourself.
2. Cut everything out.
3. Glue everything in place. Be careful not to use too much glue so the puppet doesn't stick together.
4. Wait for it to dry completely and then you have an otter puppet!

“Oh no! The *river otter pup* got lost from his family! Can you help him find his way back?”



