Otters at Work

Use facts from a short article to write in your own words.

2.W.8 "Use background knowledge and/or information gathered from digital and print sources to write about a topic in one's own words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two facts about how sea otters live and circle one fact about how they help kelp grow, so you can use those facts in your own words.

Sea Otters and Kelp

1. Sea otters live in cold ocean water. They have very thick fur that traps air close to their skin. This air helps keep them warm. Sea otters spend time cleaning their fur so it works well.

2. A sea otter often floats on its back to eat. It may put a rock on its chest and hit a hard shell against it. The shell breaks, and the otter can eat the food inside. Some otters eat sea urchins too.

3. Sea urchins eat kelp, a kind of large seaweed. When sea otters eat urchins, fewer urchins are left to eat the kelp. More kelp can grow. Sea otters may hold on to kelp while they rest, so they do not drift away.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In your own words, why does a sea otter clean its fur?

2. In your own words, how can a rock help a sea otter eat?

3. In your own words, how can kelp help a resting sea otter?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

YOUR TURN: Write two sentences explaining how a sea otter can help kelp grow. Use facts from the article, but write in your own words.

ANSWER KEY

Otters at Work

GRADE 2 · 2.W.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two facts about how sea otters live and circle one fact about how they help kelp grow, so you can use those facts in your own words. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In your own words, why does a sea otter clean its fur?	**Cleaning helps its fur trap air that keeps it warm.**
2	In your own words, how can a rock help a sea otter eat?	**The otter hits a hard shell against the rock to break it open.**
3	In your own words, how can kelp help a resting sea otter?	**The otter can hold on to kelp so it does not drift away.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Sea otters eat sea urchins. With fewer urchins eating it, more kelp can grow.

Accept answers that accurately explain the passage's facts in the student's own words. For the open response, look for the link between otters eating urchins and more kelp growing.