

# The Activities of an Otter Adventure



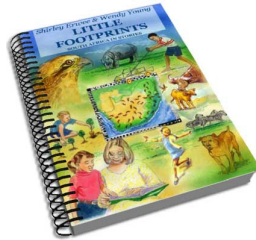
based on  
*The Adventures of an Otter*  
by Steve Camp

**A printable file folder project**



Created by  
Footprints On Our Land – South African homeschool resources  
[www.south-african-homeschool-curriculum.com](http://www.south-african-homeschool-curriculum.com)

# A Little Footprints File Folder Project



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## Introduction

As homeschooling mothers/teachers, we have discovered that our children take great pleasure in creating something about what they are learning. We do a lot of literature-based learning in our homes, so for them it is special to have something tangible to show for their efforts.

We enjoy using a combination of 'living books' and appropriate reference books when learning about any topic. By reading carefully selected fiction, our children pick up a lot of 'general knowledge' on any given personality, event or era and we enjoy presenting that knowledge in various ways.

We mainly use narrations and notebooking pages to record our work, but to break the monotony we have created various other projects – posters, theme books and these project packs consisting of a collection of mini-booklets.

For free printable notebooking pages on South African themes, visit the Footprints On Our Land site at [www.south-african-homeschool-curriculum.com](http://www.south-african-homeschool-curriculum.com).

Traditionally, school children create theme books about the various people groups of southern Africa, but we realized that for younger children, even with help and supervision, this can be quite an overwhelming task.

However, a mini-book project enables children to work with small bits of information at a time and this is not as overwhelming as having to write a project from scratch.

This project pack is aimed at children aged 4-8 and can be adapted for multiple age levels, commonly found in the homeschooling situation.

## Adapting a project

If the suggested activities are too difficult for your student, here are some ways to adapt them:

1. Let your child dictate the written answers to you.
2. Write words that your child can copy.
3. Allow your child to draw her narration.
4. Shorten the questions or requirements to suit your child.

Likewise, for **more advanced** students, you can adapt a project as follows:

1. Help them to research the topic further using the internet, library or other resources that you may have.
2. Let them write longer narrations. You could add a pocket or an extra flap to the folder and store additional work there.



*File folder with pocket*

## Be creative

Use this file folder as the basic starting point of your project.

- If you study a topic in depth, you could add photos of crafts or hands on projects that your students did, outings and field trips relating to the topic, photos of relevant places of interest or historical objects.
- Add brochures or souvenirs you may have from places you visited.
- Add book reviews of relevant books, fiction or reference that you have read about the topic.
- Add any drawings your student may have done.
- Decorate your file folder with glitter, gel pens, stickers, ribbons, embellishments, just about anything!
- If you find out that there is something extra that you wish to add to the file, then do it! Add another flap. Flaps can be hinged to the top edge or the bottom edge. Be creative here also!
- Feel free to re-arrange the booklets if necessary.

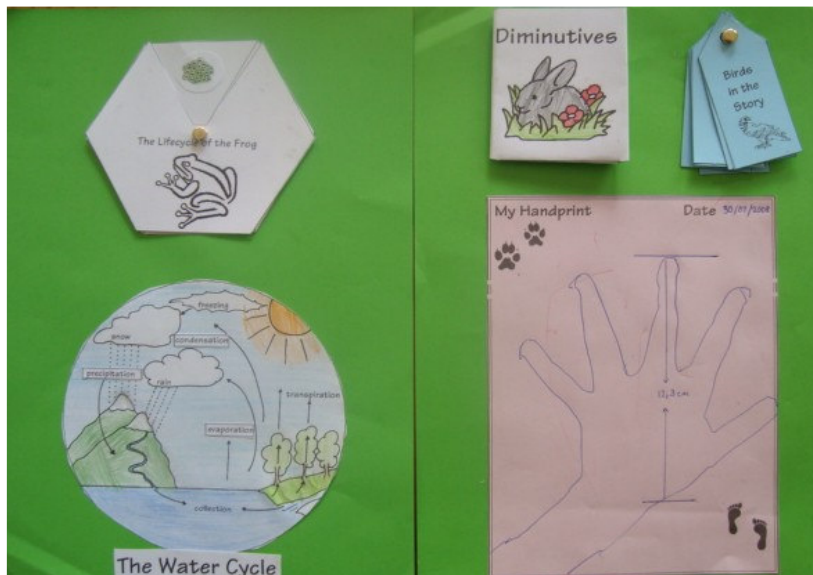
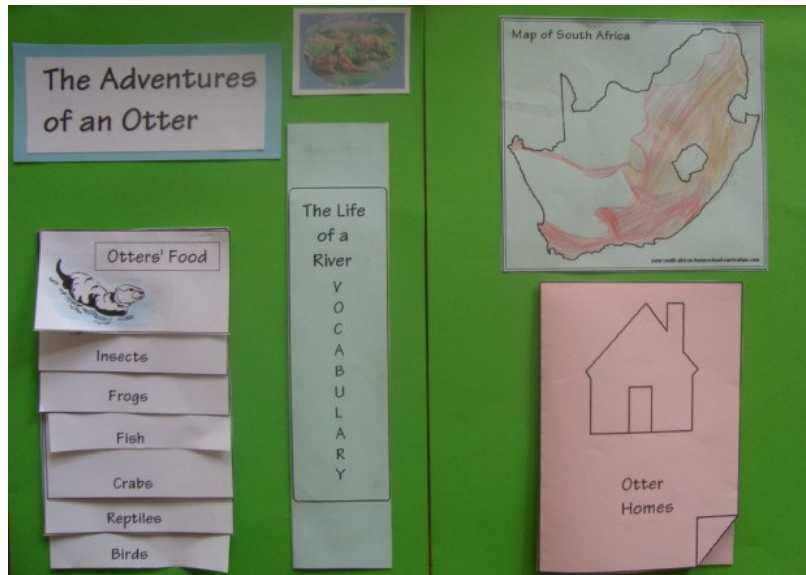
### **The benefits of using a file folder project pack**

- A file folder project will enable your children to work on and review key information about the topic being studied.
- It will develop auditory and comprehension skills as well as the ability to search, sift and find answers in a written text.
- The hands-on activities are fun and develop fine motor skills.
- Children love to learn by doing!
- The creative possibilities are endless. Children can be creative and add their unique touch to their projects.
- File folder projects are ideal for multi-level learning.
- Project packs can be incorporated into unit studies, supplement topics of study or stand alone.
- A project gives the children a reason for writing and drawing.
- File folder projects are compact, easy to store and retrieve again later.
- A file folder project can become part of a child's portfolio of work and are a great tool for reviewing completed work.

### **You will need:**

1. One or more file folders per student
2. Safety scissors
3. Printing paper and card, preferably red, white and blue
4. Glue
5. Stapler
6. Sticky tape
7. Pencils

**Sample pictures of the completed file folder project.**



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# The Activities of an Otter Adventure

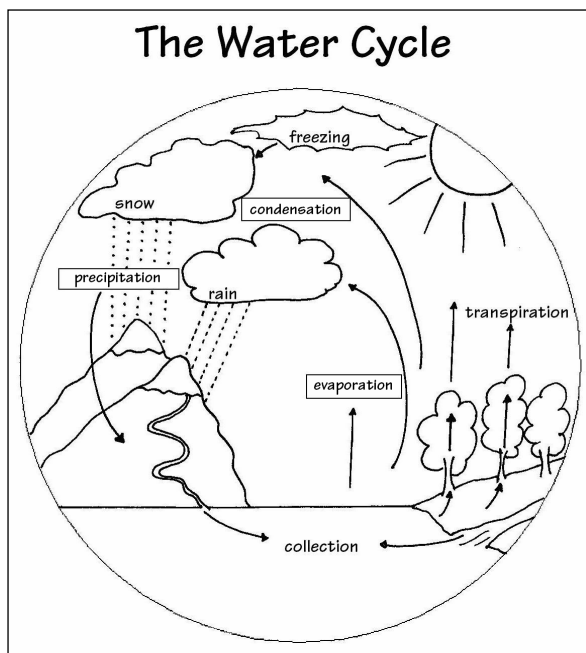
based on the story  
*The Adventures of an Otter*  
by Steve Camp.



## The Water Cycle

Otters live in rivers and rivers are an important part of the water cycle. Did you know that all the water on the earth today, is the same water that God created on Day 2 as described in the book of Genesis 1 in the Bible. Some of the water is frozen in the polar regions, but the rest is being recycled constantly for our benefit!

As the sun heats up water in the sea and lakes, it evaporates into the air. This is known as *evaporation*. Evaporation is also what dries out our wet laundry when we hang it outside.



As the water vapour rises into the air, it cools and condenses and forms clouds. *Condensation* is also what causes the tiles and mirror to become frosty when we bath. Steam from the bath evaporates and condenses when it comes into contact with the cold surface of the tiles and the mirror.

Now, when the water vapour condenses like the steam in the bathroom, little droplets of water are formed – just like you get on the bathroom mirror. Up in the clouds those drops of water are

moving constantly and bump into each other and form bigger droplets. Eventually those little drops of water are too heavy to stay floating up in the clouds and they fall to the earth as rain.

The rain runs into streams and rivers and back to the sea, where the cycle starts over again.

Trees and forests also play an important part in the water cycle. Trees and plants take in water through their roots and after using some of it to produce their food, they give off water vapour from tiny openings in their leaves, in a process called *transpiration*.

### **Additional resources**

1. On the internet you can watch this animated diagram of the water cycle:

<http://earthguide.ucsd.edu/earthguide/diagrams/watercycle/index.html>

2. Read ***The Magic School Bus at the Waterworks*** by Joanna Cole for an exciting literary adventure through the water cycle!



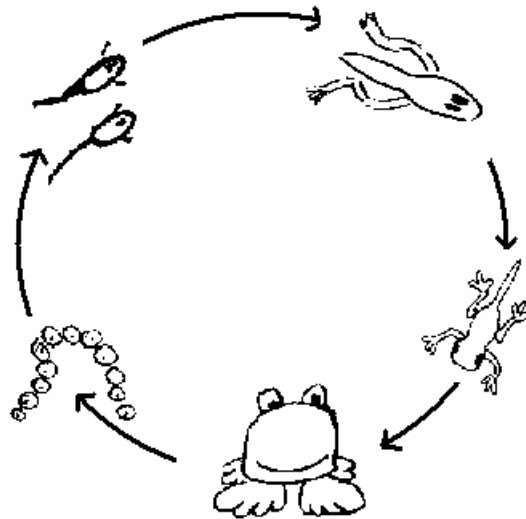
Colour the diagram of the water cycle provided.  
Cut and past the missing labels onto the appropriate places on the diagram.

## **The Lifecycle of the Frog**

Frogs are *amphibians*, which means that they can live on land and in water. The young tadpoles are first water-creatures but then by a process called *metamorphosis*, they change to frogs that live on land. They are *cold-blooded* animals, which means that their body temperature does not stay the same but changes according to the temperature of their environment. In contrast, we humans are warm-blooded as we are able to maintain a constant body temperature.

Frogs feed on flies, spiders and earthworms. They capture flies by flicking out their long sticky tongues and trapping them. They then swallow their food whole.

The frog's lifecycle is known as *metamorphosis* – that's a big word meaning that it changes its form in the following process:



**The Frog's lifecycle**

1. The female frog lays hundreds of eggs covered in a jelly in the water.
2. Within a few days, a tiny tadpole hatches out, which has gills for breathing, like a fish.
3. The tadpole grows and grows and after a few weeks it begins to grow hind legs.
4. Then the front legs begin to grow too and the tadpole starts developing lungs so that one day he can breathe air, outside of the water. The gills start to disappear.
5. Eventually the frog grows can hop on land. He still has a tail
6. The tail gradually disappears until he looks like a fully-grown frog.

## Additional resources:

For an illustrated story about this process, read the story of **Something Froggy** online at <http://www.fi.edu/fellows/fellow9/jun99/>



Colour the pictures then cut them out and arrange them in the correct order on the hexagonal pie-wheel. Glue them down. Place the cover on top and insert a brad through the centre.

## Language – Diminutives

A baby otter is called a cub. Here are the diminutives of other animals to learn.

Cow-calf	Hen-chick
Horse- foal	Duck-duckling
Sheep-lamb	Goose-gosling
Pig-piglet	Kangaroo-joeey
Goat-kid	Rabbit-kitten
Lion-cub	Eagle-eaglet



Cut out, fold and glue the envelope in which to store the Diminutive cards.

Colour in and cut out the animal cards provided. There is one adult and one baby animal for each pair.

Use the animal cards to play a memory/matching game:

- Place all the cards face down.
- Take turns to turn over two at a time and see if you can find a matching pair.
- If not, replace them and give the next player a turn.

## Otter Information

After reading the factual information at the back of the story book, complete the following activities:

### Otter Homes



Cut out the card fold book. Write or dictate to your parents all you can remember about where otters make their homes. Draw a picture of an otter's holt too, if you like.

### Map of South Africa



Mark and colour in the areas on the map of South Africa where otters are found.

### Otter Food



Cut out and colour the pictures of the animals that otters eat. Cut out the pages of the layer book and glue the pictures onto the appropriate pages. Glue or staple the pages together at the top edge.

## Handprint



After looking at the two different paw prints of the otters in the book, make a handprint or outline of your hand on the page provided. Measure the length of your hand and record your measurement.

## Birds

Read about the different birds mentioned in the story in the back of the book.



Draw or list each bird mentioned in the story on the fan book template. Punch a hole through the pointed side of the templates and fasten them together with a brad.

## The Life of a River

The otters, Zigi, Zoe and their mother, live in the Mgeni River in Kwa-Zulu Natal. The *source* of the Mgeni river is a big valley called the Mgeni Vlei. When rain falls, it fills up with water and becomes a *wetland*, where many plants and animals live. The water starts flowing downhill.

As the water flows rapidly downhill it creates rocky streams and bubbling rapids as it washes the sand away.

There are four *dams* that have been built along the course of the Mgeni river: the Midmar Dam, Albert Falls Dam and the Nagle Dam and the Inanda Dam.

Various *tributaries* flow into the Mgeni river, making it grow bigger and bigger, making it wash away its *banks* along the sides and widen its valley.

The *mouth* of the Mgeni River flows into the sea, the Indian Ocean at Durban.

### **Additional resources**

1. Steve Camp, *The Story of the Mgeni River*, ISBN 0-620-25994-9  
This book is filled with interesting environmental facts and stunning photographs about one of Kwa-Zulu Natal's major sources of water, journeying from its origins in the mountains to its end at Durban.

2. The Life Cycle of a River – a description with photos  
<http://curriculum.calstatela.edu/courses/builders/lessons/less/les2/rivlife.html>



Cut out the vocabulary card fold booklet and fold it in half along the centre vertical line. Cut out the definitions of the vocabulary and place them in the correct box opposite each word. Cut out and glue the cover picture to the front of the booklet.

## Other printable South African projects



When you have completed this file folder project, you might like to continue with the another one in the **Little Footprints** series for ages 4-8:

This interactive, hands on South African unit study is based on the story ***Fly, Eagle, Fly! An African Tale*** by Christopher Gregorowski.

<http://www.south-african-homeschool-curriculum.com/south-african-unit-study.html>

For children aged 7-11 we also have a range of

## SOUTH AFRICAN HISTORY FILE FOLDER PROJECTS *ONLINE*

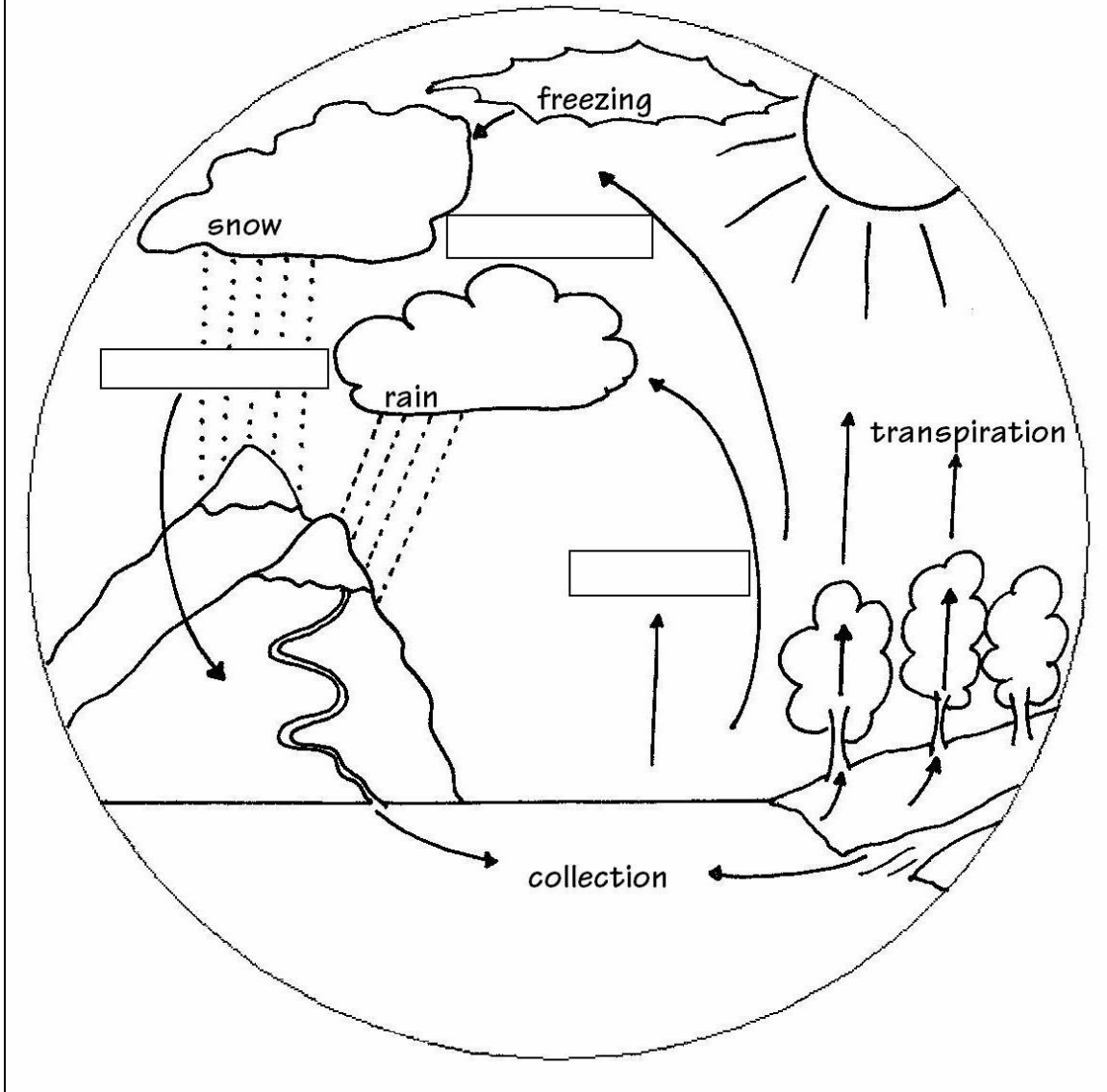
[www.south-african-homeschool-curriculum.com/south-african-history.html](http://www.south-african-homeschool-curriculum.com/south-african-history.html)



## PRINTABLE HANDS-ON PROJECTS PACKS

“A perfect match for **ANY** curriculum, unit study or stand-alone history.”

# The Water Cycle



evaporation

condensation

precipitation



Pictures for The Lifecycle of the Frog (above)

Storage pocket for diminutive cards (below)

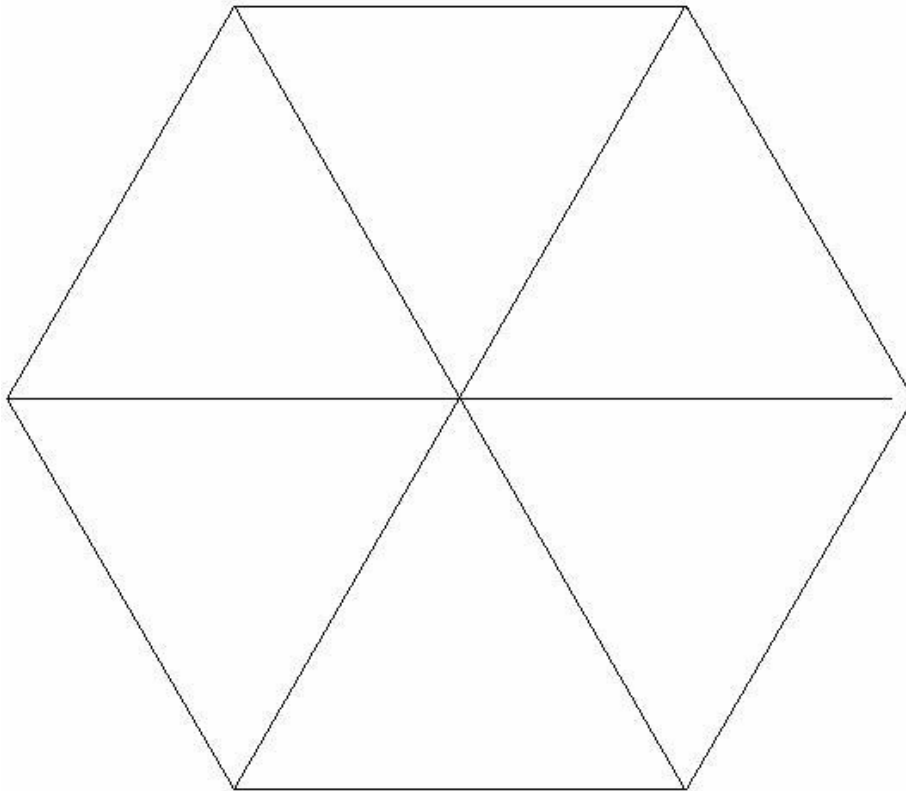
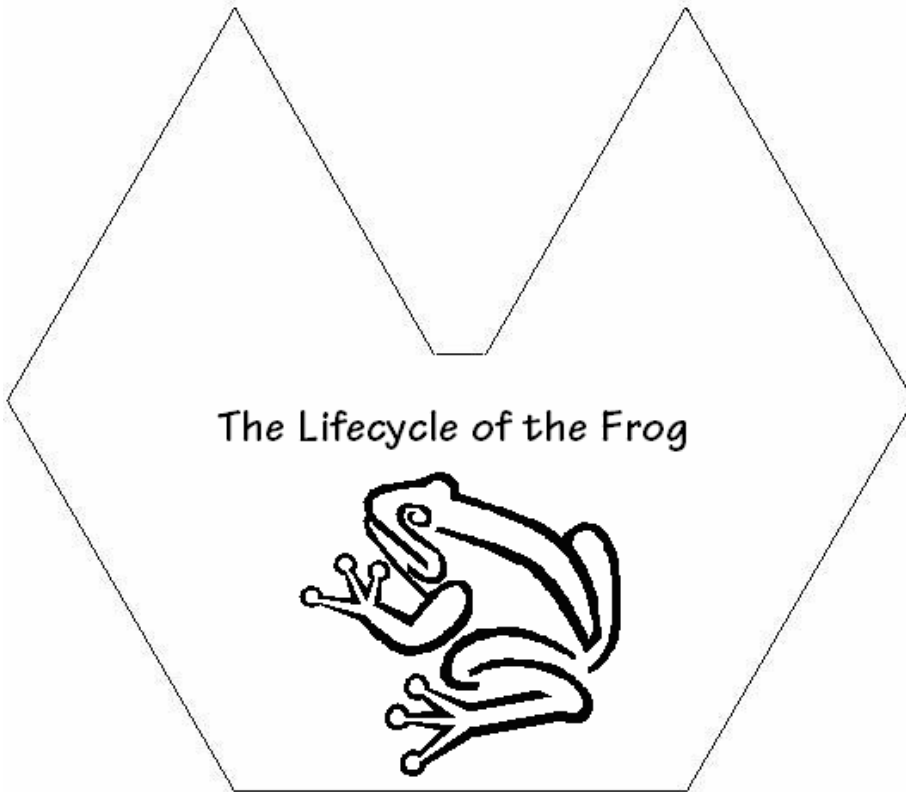
For best results print on card.








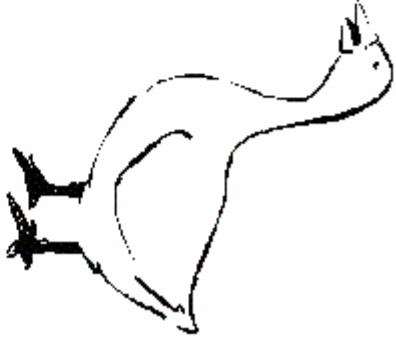
Fold the bottom flap up behind. Then fold and glue the side edges of the front piece over it to make an envelope-style pocket in which to store the cards.







Colour in and cut out the animal cards provided. There is one adult and one baby animal for each pair.






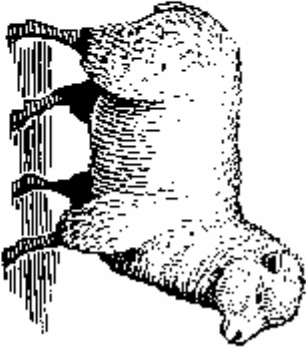
For best results print this page on card.

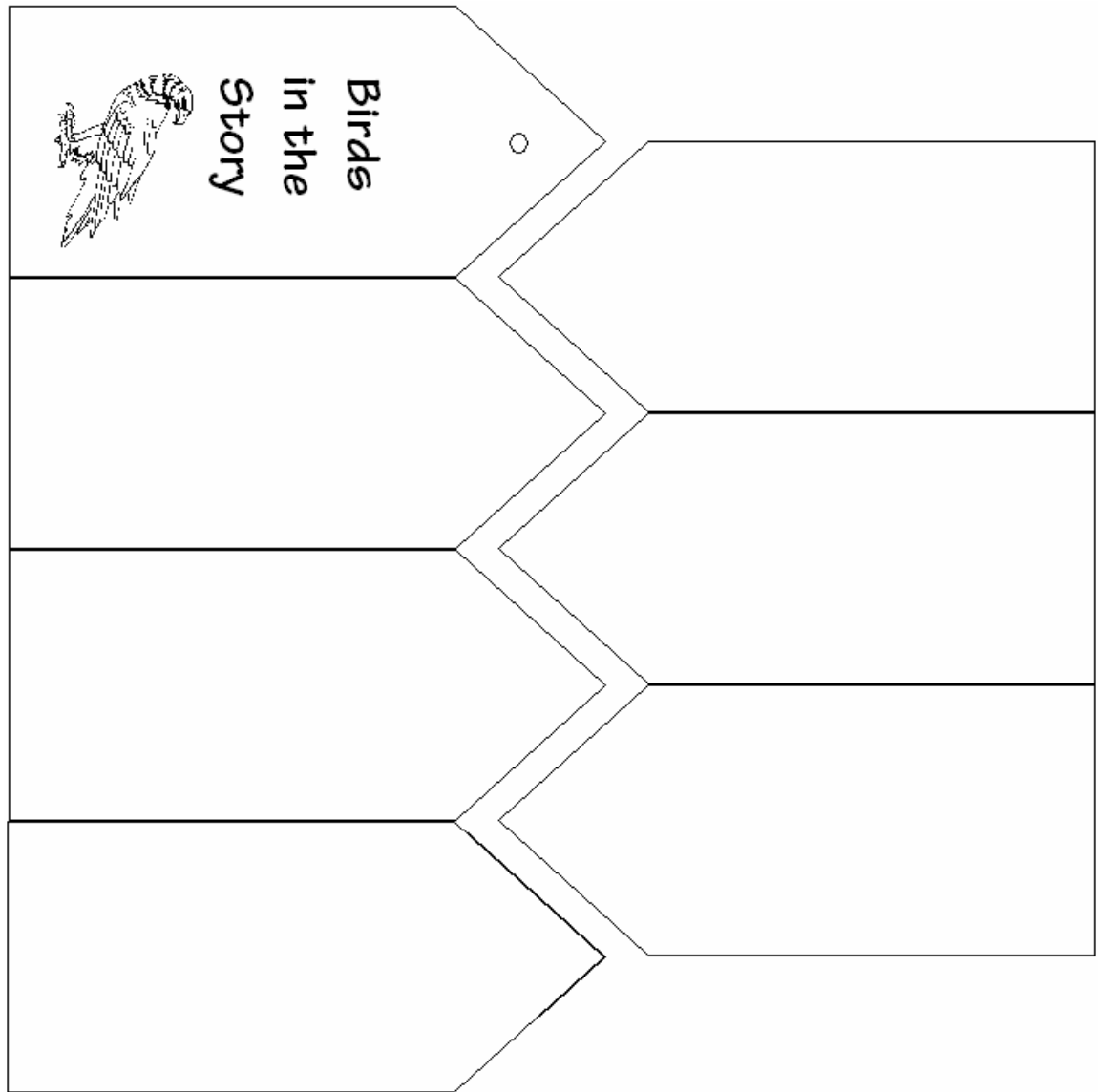


For best results print on card.

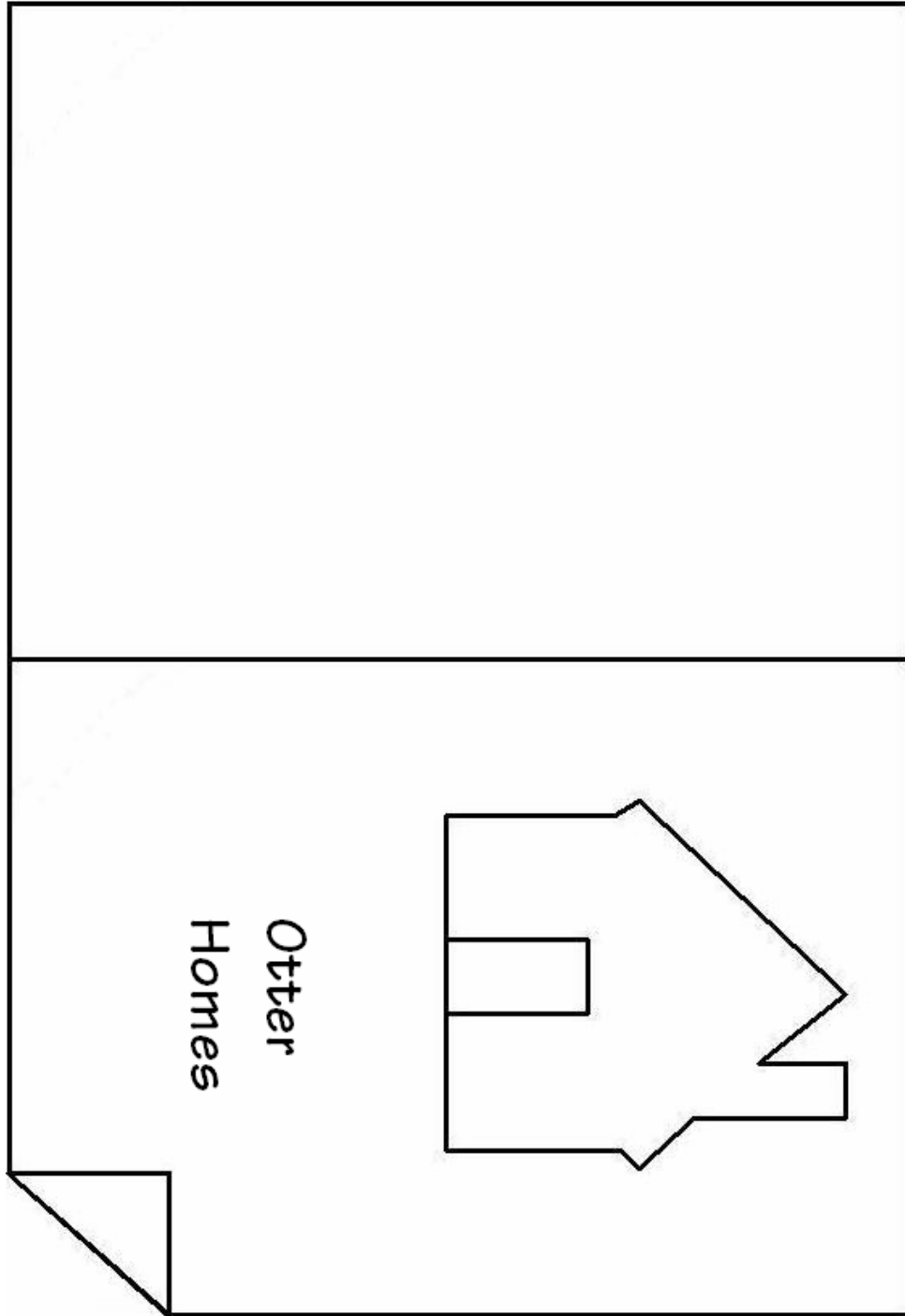
<p>Kangaroo</p> 	<p>Lion</p> 
<p>Joey</p> 	<p>Cub</p> 
<p>Gosling</p> 	<p>Goose</p> 

<p>Kitten</p> 	<p>Duck</p> 
<p>Rabbit</p> 	<p>Duckling</p> 
<p>Goat</p> 	<p>Kid</p> 

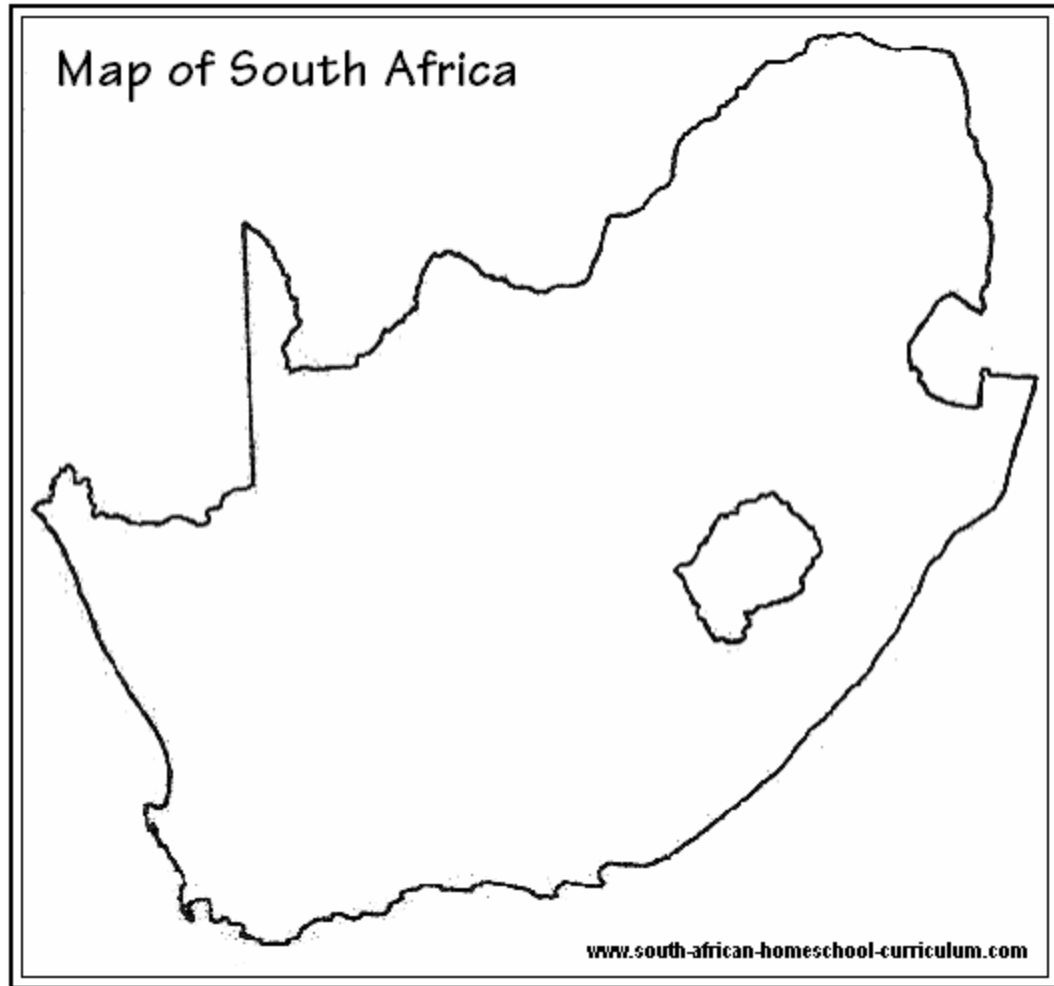
 <p>Chick</p>	 <p>Cow</p>
 <p>Hen</p>	 <p>Calf</p>
 <p>Lamb</p>	 <p>Sheep</p>



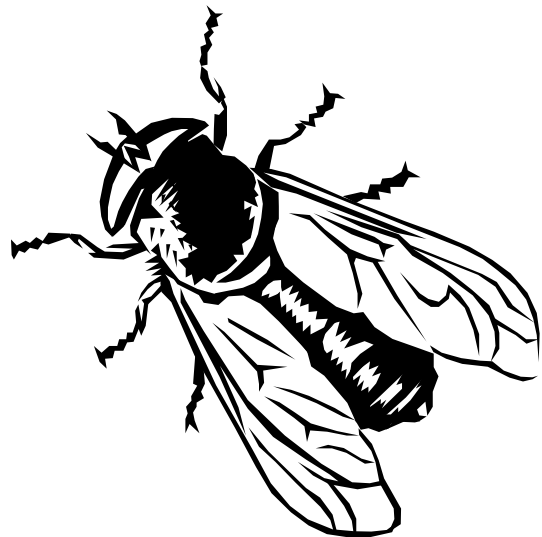
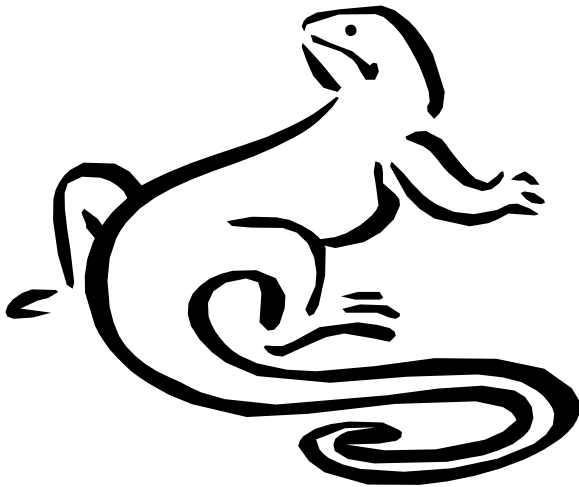
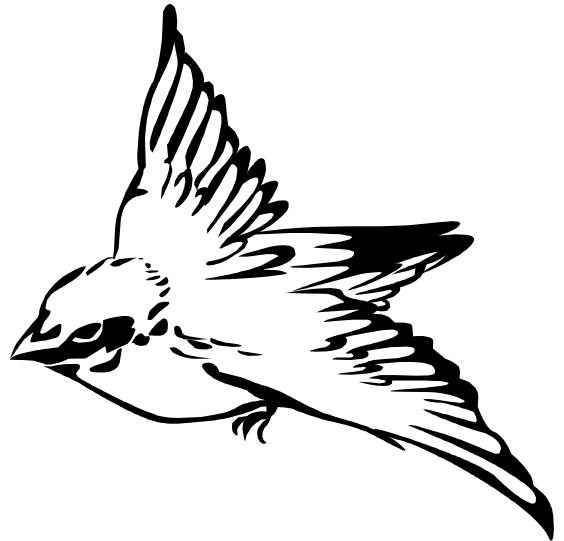
Draw or list each bird mentioned in the story on the fan book template. Punch a hole through the pointed side of the templates and fasten them together with a brad.

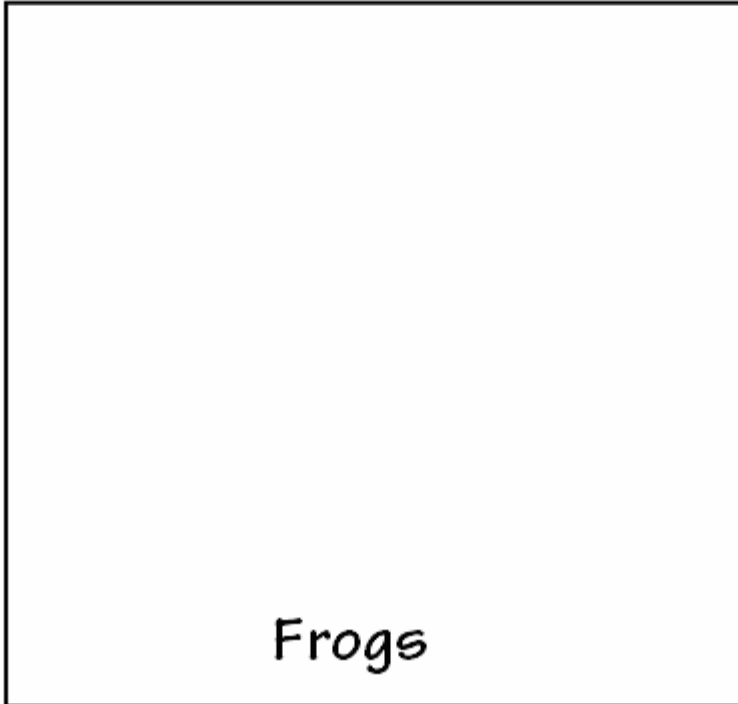


*Cut out the card fold book. Write or dictate to your parents all you can remember about where otters make their homes. Draw a picture of an otter's holt too, if you like.*



Mark and colour in the areas on the map of South Africa where otters are found.



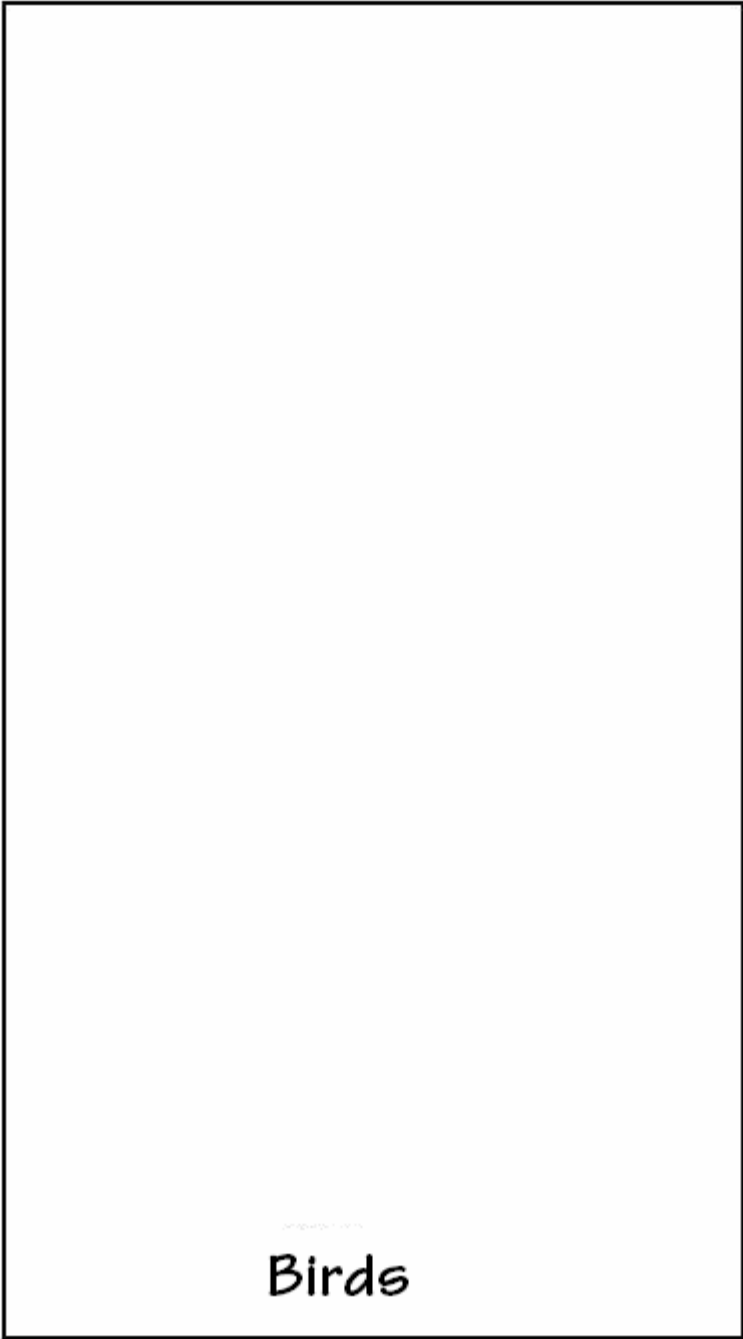


Cut out and colour the pictures of the animals that otters eat. Cut out the pages of the layer book and glue the pictures onto the appropriate pages. Glue or staple the pages together at the top edge.



Crabs

Fish

Reptiles



**Birds**

My Handprint	Date
	
	

After looking at the two different paw prints of the otters in the book, make a handprint or outline of your hand on the page provided. Measure the length of your hand and record your measurement.

catchment	
source	
tributary	
bank	
dam	
wetland	
mouth	

Cut out the vocabulary card fold booklet and fold it in half along the centre vertical line.

Cut out the definitions of the vocabulary and place them in the correct box opposite each word.

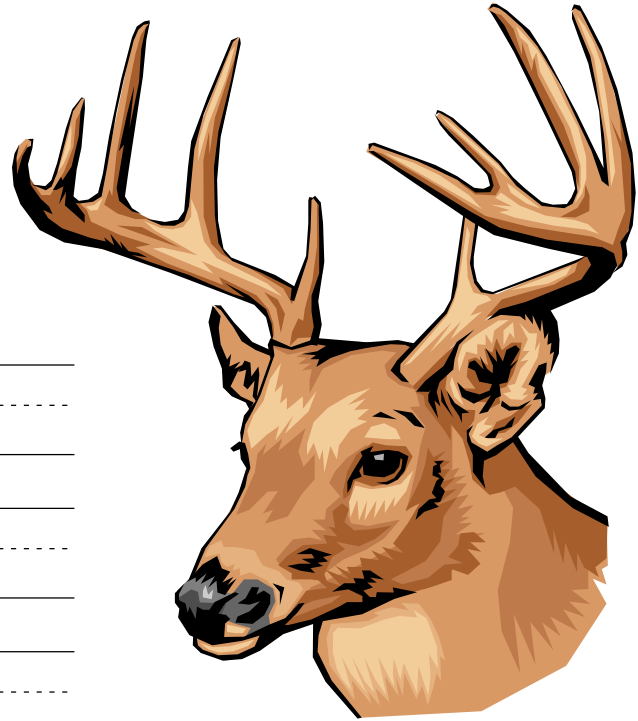
Cut out and glue the cover picture to the front of the booklet.

a stream which flows into a larger river
area from which a river collects water
a wall built across a river to hold back the water
the place where a river begins
the place where a river enters the sea
high ground beside a river
a place where water gathers for long periods and where water plants live

**The Life  
of a  
River**  
  
**V  
O  
C  
A  
B  
U  
L  
A  
R  
Y**

# The Adventures of an Otter

Psalm 42:1-2



"As the

deer

pants for the

water, so my

Little Footprints

soul longs

after you, O

God."



The Adventures of an Otter

Zoë's



mother ran to

him and helped

him across the

stream. Zoë now

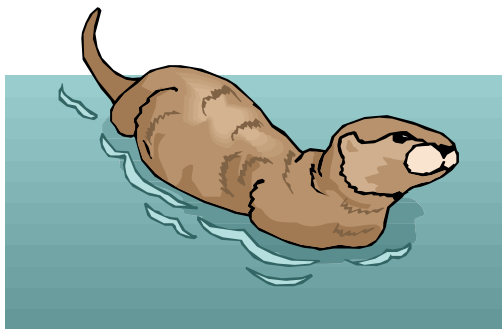
Little Footprints

knew why it was

important to

stay close to

his mother.



# The Adventures of an Otter

Psalm 42:1-2

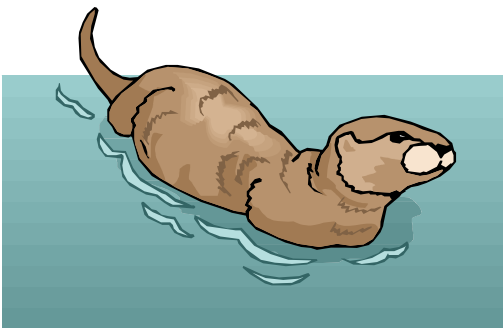
"As the deer pants for  
the water, so my soul  
longs after you, O God."

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed midline. The first set of lines contains the text from Psalm 42:1-2. Below this are four more sets of empty lines for practice.



## The Adventures of an Otter

Zoë's mother ran to him  
and helped him across the  
stream. Zoë now knew why  
it was important to stay  
close to his mother.



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# The Adventures of an Otter



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