

Houston Zoo at Home

EARTH WEEK: NORTH AMERICAN RIVER OTTERS

Otter Slide

Ages: 5-13

Belle and Jack, our Children's Zoo North American otters, are known for being very playful as well as moving about their habitats in unique ways, including bounding and sliding on their bellies. Challenge yourself in this family friendly game to see if you can move like our otters.

Materials: None!

Steps:

1. This game is played like "Rock, Paper, Scissors" however, try using the words "walk", "bound", and "slide" (bound beats walk, slide beats bound, and walk beats slide). Before playing, make sure to make up your own actions that will take the place of rock, paper, and scissors. For example, walk might be walking in a circle, bound could be hopping up and down and slide could be sliding your feet to the right then back to the left.
2. Each player starts as a "Walker" and will find another family member that is also a "Walker".
3. Once you find another "Walker", these two participants will play one round of rock, paper, scissors but instead will call out "walk, bound, slide, SHOOT!".
4. On the word "shoot" each participant will pick their action (bound beats walk, slide beats bound, and walk beats slide).
5. The winner becomes a "Bounder" and must find another "Bounder" to play with. The other player will remain a "Walker" and will have to find another walker to try and move up.

Share your project with us!

Tag your photo using #HoustonZoo or email us your story at communications@houstonzoo.org.

Go Fish

Ages: 2-10

Otters are amazing hunters and will often go fishing for their food. Some humans also like to eat fish, but we use different tools than an otter would. See if you can create your own fishing hole and collect dinner for your otter family.

Materials:

- Fish cut outs (draw them or print out a few)
- Your choice of adhesive (magnets, Velcro, masking tape, etc.)
- Stick, paper towel tube, or other long and ridged material to act as the pole.
- Art supplies to decorate your fish and polls.
- Scissors
- Yarn or string

Steps:

1. Print or draw out fish of various sizes.
2. On the mouth of the fish, place your choice of adhesive.
3. Take a long stick or paper tube and tie a piece of yarn (at least 1 ft) to it. At the end of the string, attach your other piece of adhesive.
4. Lay the fish that you have cut out on the table or floor and see how many of them you can catch with you pole.

Share your project with us!

Tag your photo using #HoustonZoo or email us your story at communications@houstonzoo.org.