

North American River Otter

Lontra canadensis

WHERE CAN NORTHERN RIVER OTTERS BE FOUND?

They live throughout the **United States of America and Canada**. They prefer **marshy land near rivers or lakes, or by the coast**.



Sensitive whiskers

Can close ears to stop water getting in

Thick, waterproof coat to keep warm

Strong tail for swimming

RIVER OTTERS ARE NOT A THREATENED SPECIES BUT THERE ARE SOME DANGERS THEY NEED TO WATCH OUT FOR!

These otters have made a remarkable comeback thanks to cleaner waters and protective measures. They are now found in all states except Hawaii. Canada and 21 states allow trapping otters while other states protect them.

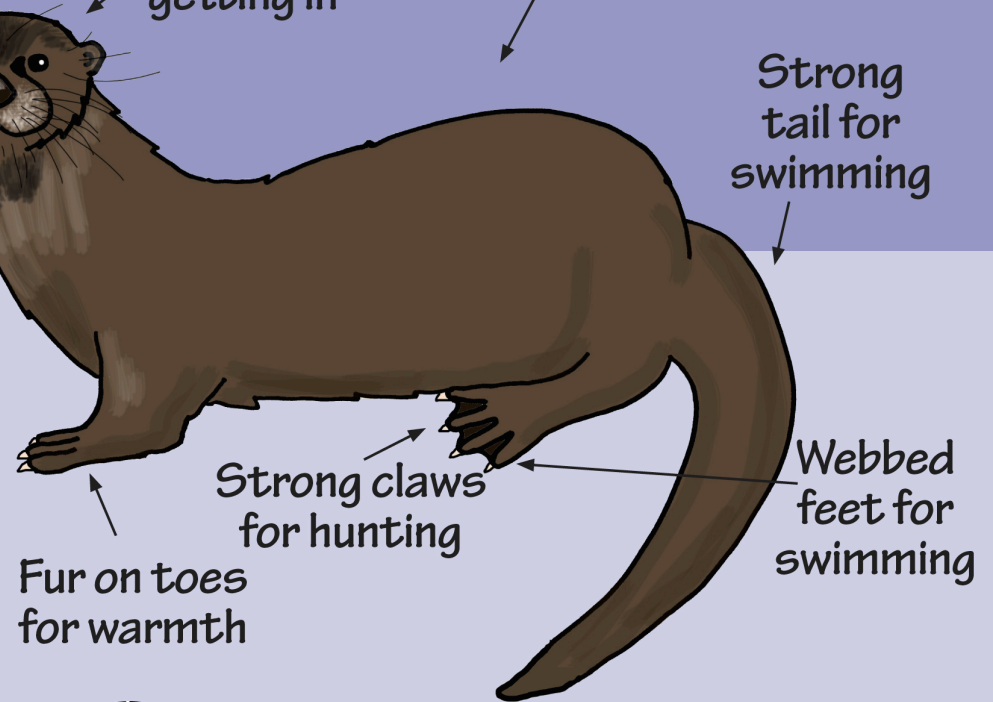
In the water, alligators might eat an otter. On land, wolves, cougars, coyotes or even dogs might attack.



Humans are the biggest threat to otters; in some states they can be legally trapped for their fur.



The River Otter's habitat is threatened by pollution.



WHAT DO RIVER OTTERS EAT?

River otters will eat **fish**, **crayfish**, **frogs** and **small birds**. If given the chance, they may eat **small mammals**.

