

Middle School 



Conservation Through Exciting Education



**Crikey!**  
**Curriculum**

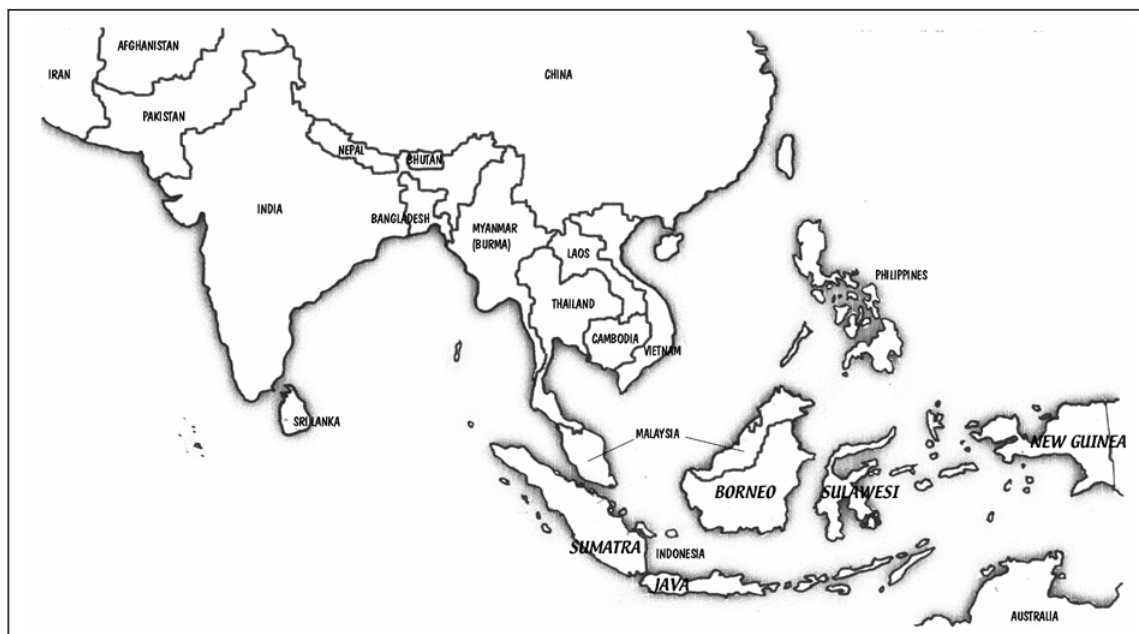
**Australia Zoo**  
Home of The Crocodile Hunter

# Asian Small-clawed Otter!



Our otters, Bonnie and Maria, are fed at our “OttersLive” presentation three times a day; at 10:00, 1:00 and 3:30. Choose one of these demonstrations to complete this worksheet. Make sure you’ve read through it before the talk. Each talk varies slightly, so you may not receive all the information you need to complete the sheet. The keeper may be available for a few minutes after the talk, otherwise try researching otters in your library or on the internet.

- The otters on display are not Australian natives. Shade the map to indicate which countries they are found in.



- On which **continents** are otters **not** found? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- What family of mammals do otters belong to? \_\_\_\_\_  
What other animals does this mean they are related to? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- List three characteristics (structural or behavioural) that distinguish this species from other otters.
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_

5. From the information given, figure out the age of the girls. \_\_\_\_\_ years old.
6. Otters eat a lot of food compared to their body weight. Explain why. (hint: think of their activity)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
7. This species of otter is sometimes **nocturnal** in the wild. This is not the case at the Zoo. What are the advantages of our otters being active in the day time?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
8. Give examples of any territorial behaviour displayed by the otters.
1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Look at the kind of food the otters are eating. What adaptations do they possess to help them catch and consume their prey?
1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Watch the otters as they swim. Which parts of their body do they utilise? How are these adapted to an aquatic lifestyle?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
11. Can you see the bubbles as the otters swim? Explain how this is evidence of insulation.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
12. What is a “holt”? \_\_\_\_\_
13. What is a “spraint”? \_\_\_\_\_
14. What conservation status is given to Asian Small-clawed Otters? \_\_\_\_\_
15. What threats have they faced in the past? Has this changed?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
16. What is being done to conserve Asian Small-clawed Otters? What can you do to help?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_