Name: _____ Date: _____

Grade 5 Reading Comprehension Worksheet

The Otter Family

By Arabella Buckley

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

About five o'clock one fine morning in May, Tom, the gamekeeper's son, was examining the traps set for weasels, stoats, and other vermin. His way led him over a bridge across the river, and as he came near it he heard a strange whistling noise. Tom knew that this cry came from a father or mother otter who were fishing in the river with their little ones. Just below the bridge, where the bank was very high, there grew an old willow tree, and a big hole between its strong roots. Now Tom knew that this hole was the home of some otters. Everything was very quiet in the early morning. So Tom lay down in the thick grass at the top of the bank and waited. By-and-by on came the otters, swimming smoothly along with only their noses above water. The old otters swam so quietly but the young otters were playing and twisting about. Tom was so well hidden in the tall grass that the otters had no idea that he was there. So one by one they scrambled up on the island, each with a fish in its mouth. Then they each took hold of their fish with their front feet, and began to eat just behind the head. They ate on till they nearly reached the tail and then left that. While they were eating, Tom could see what they were like. They had long bending bodies, and broad, flat heads, and their mouths and noses were short and broad. Their feet were webbed like duck's feet, but each foot had very sharp claws at the end. Their fur was a lovely soft brown. Their tails were thick and strong. The father tore the fish with his teeth quite fiercely, and sometimes threw small pieces to the young ones, who had soon finished their tiny fish. Then the father otter slid down the bank, and the others followed him, and they all went to fish again. There are fewer otters than there used to be in the rivers of England. But they are still to be found in many places. Only, if you want to see them at home, you must get up early in the morning.

Answer each question.

1. What was Tom doing at five o'clock in the morning?
2. What did Tom hear?
3. Did Tom know the home of the otters?
4. What were otters doing?
5. What did otters eat and how?
6. How did Tom give the description of the otter?

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