

## WHO LOVES WATER?



One day I was listening to the animals talking by the stream, where it formed a deep, wide pool.

“I love water! I am an OTTER!” shouted Olivia Otter as she floated on her back in the pool.

Henrique Heron jumped up and squawked, “Silly otter! You woke me up! What are you shouting for?”

“I LOVE WATER! I AM AN OTTER!” Olivia Otter shouted, even louder this time.

Beyonce Beaver popped her head up out of the pool and looked around. “What is all the shouting about?” she asked.

“I LOVE WATER! I AM AN OTTER!” Olivia Otter shouted again, still louder.

“Please, will you stop shouting?” begged Henrique Heron. “You are giving me a headache!”

“I am sorry,” said Olivia Otter, “but I am just so in love with water! I guess you would not understand.”

“What?” squawked Henrique Heron. “Do you think you are the only one who loves water?”

“Yes!” said Olivia Otter. “Look at me! I am sleek and long so I can slip and zip through the water. My fur is coated with oil so I can stay warm in the water. I have webbed feet so I can paddle hard. I even make my own water slides so I can have so much fun playing in water!”

“Hmmp!” said Beyonce Beaver. “You are NOT the only one who loves water! Do you know that this pool would not even be here if my family was not here?”

“What do you mean?” asked Olivia Otter.

“Well,” said Beyonce Beaver, “haven’t you seen us carrying branches to the pile at the end of the pool? That pile is our Beaver Dam! It holds back water from the stream to make this pool! It is a lot of work to build a Beaver Dam and to keep it in good repair!”

“Oh!” said Olivia Otter. “I guess you must really love water, too, to go to so much trouble to make our pool! Do you want to stay around and shout with me about how much you love water?”

“Hmmp!” said Beyonce Beaver. “I do NOT want to shout! I have too much work to do! But I will slap my tail on the water to remind you that I love water, too!” Beyonce Beaver slapped her tail and swam away.

“Well, I guess I am not the only one who loves water,” said Olivia Otter. “Henrique Heron, I wish you loved water, too! Then you could shout with me instead of getting a headache!”

Henrique Heron stomped his foot. “Silly Otter! Just because I do not swim around in water does not mean I do not love water! I need water very much!”

“How do you need it?” asked Olivia Otter. “I sometimes see you staring at it, but I do not know why you do that!”

“I am staring at it to try to spot a little fish or frog swimming by so I can catch it for my meal!” said Henrique Heron. “If this stream and pool was not here, I would have a much harder time finding my breakfast, lunch, or dinner! Not only that, but the trees that grow near streams make good places for me to build a nest or take a rest!”

“Oh!” squeaked Olivia Otter. “I forgot about finding tasty fish in the water! I like to eat them, too!” Olivia Otter started to shout again, “I REALLY, REALLY, REALLY LOVE WATER!”

Henrique Heron squawked, flapped his wings, and started to fly away. "You will scare all the fish away with your shouting, silly Otter!" he called down to Olivia Otter. "I am going somewhere else to take a rest before it is time to fish again! Good bye!"

"Hmmm," thought Olivia Otter, "maybe I should quiet down a little bit. Why, hello Roland Raccoon!"

"Hello, Olivia Otter!" said Roland Raccoon. "Why were you shouting? It sounds like you are having fun!"

"I am having fun!" said Olivia Otter. "I was telling Henrique Heron and Beyonce Beaver about how much I love water!"

"Oh, yay! I love water, too!" said Roland Raccoon.

"You do? I have never seen you swimming. Why do you love water?" asked Olivia Otter.

"I need water to drink. I like clean water because it tastes better, don't you think?" asked Roland Raccoon.

"Oh, I had not thought about that," said Olivia Otter. "You are right. Clean water tastes much better and is much better for us!"

"Yep. And I also like to catch little crayfish in the shallow water. Crunch, crunch, yum, yum!" giggled Roland Raccoon.

Olivia Otter giggled and said "Crunch, crunch, yum, yum! I love to catch crayfish, too!"

Suddenly, Olivia Otter and Roland Raccoon noticed me looking at them.

"Hello!" said Olivia Otter. "Should we tell you how important water is? You look like a creature who does not need water!"

"Oh, but I do need water very much!" I laughed. "Silly Otter! I need water for drinking, taking a bath, washing my clothes and dishes, flushing my toilet, watering my lawn and garden, washing my dog, washing our car, and for having fun!"

"Well, we do not know what some of that means, but we do know about having fun in the water! It sounds like you use so much of it, though!" said Roland Raccoon.

"I do use a lot of it, it is true," I said, "but I am also very careful to help save it for you and all of the other animals and people that need it so much!"

"YAY!!!" shouted Olivia Otter. "You save water for the otters!"

"And for the Raccoons!" squealed Roland Raccoon.

"Not only that," I said, "but I also help keep it clean for all of us!"

"YAY! YAY! YAY!" shouted Olivia Otter.

"I'm curious...how do you save water?" asked Roland Raccoon.

So I told him that I save water for the Otters and all of the other animals and people by: (fill in the ways that you and your family save water!)