



Collins
BIG CAT
Phonics

for Letters and Sounds

How to Spot an Otter



Becca Heddle



Before reading



Summerlea CP School
Windsor
Rustington

Practising phonics: Phase 4

- Your child is learning to read words that contain adjacent consonants (e.g. unspoilt) and long vowel sounds.
- Read the words together.

unspoilt bright clear throat swim coast
frightening creep tree sleek smart between

Check understanding

- Ask your child what these words mean.

expert alert skilful harvest unspoilt habitat

Talk about it

- Ask your child:
 - What do you know about otters?
 - What do you hope to find out from this book? (e.g. where otters live, what otters eat)
- Now read the book. Enjoy looking at the pictures and talking about them.

How to Spot an Otter



Written by Becca Heddle

Contents

Otters	2
What do otters look like?	4
Strong swimmers	6
Smart hunters	8
Otter dens	10
Otter spotting	12
Otter facts	14

Collins

Otters

Otters are fantastic! They can be hard to spot, but this book will help you to be an otter expert.



What do otters look like?

Otters are strong and sleek,
with thick brown fur.

long, thick tail

little ears

bright and clear

lighter throat

short, strong legs

Strong swimmers

A good habitat for otters is near rivers or by the coast.



They are expert swimmers.
From when they are ten weeks old,
otter pups can swim!



Smart hunters

Otters are skilful at hunting, too. They swim along rivers and hunt for fish and frogs.



They harvest crabs and shellfish from the bottom of rivers.



Otter dens

A holt is an otter den. It is often well hidden under rocks or between tree roots.



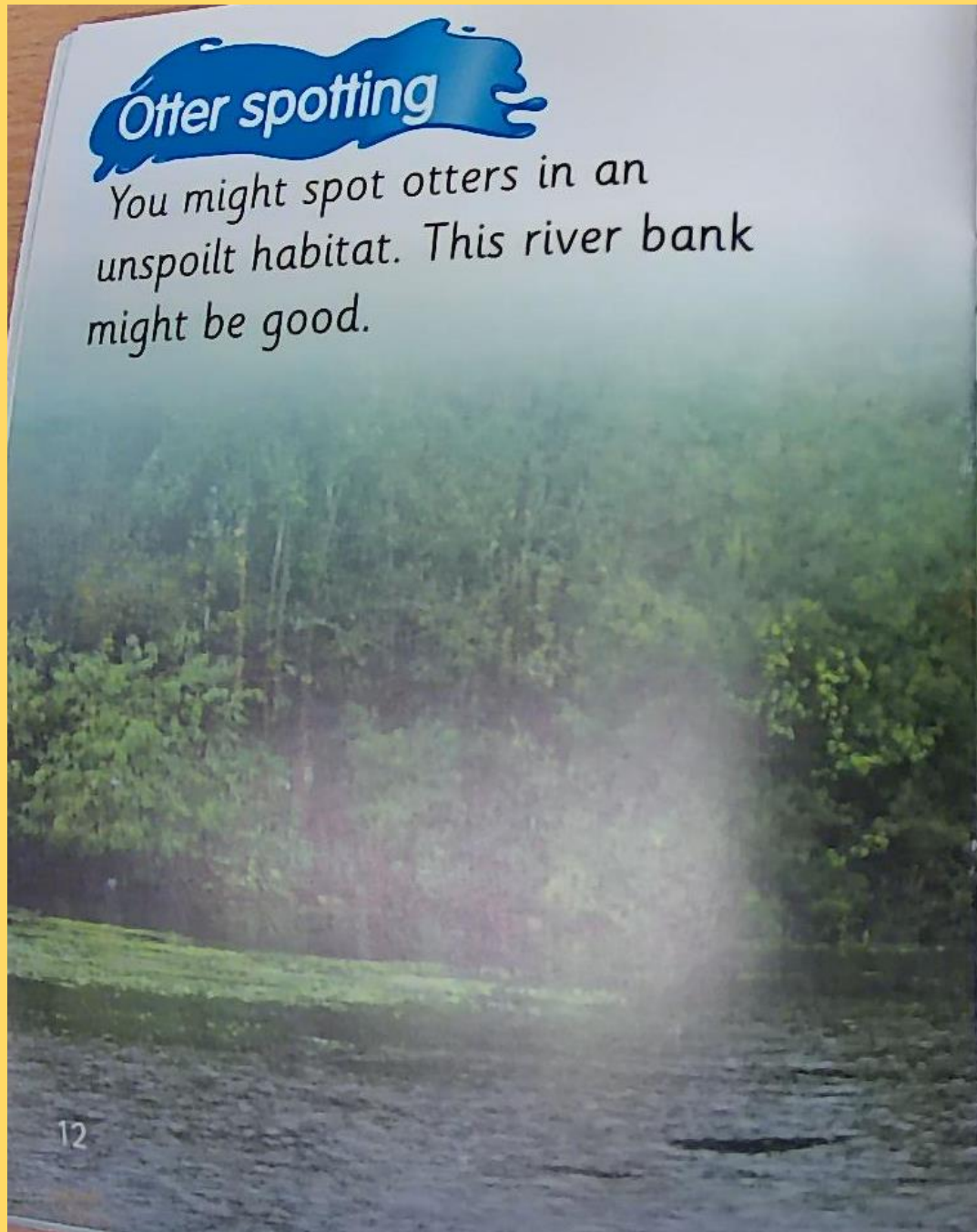
Otters often creep out when it starts to get dark.

Otters must keep alert!



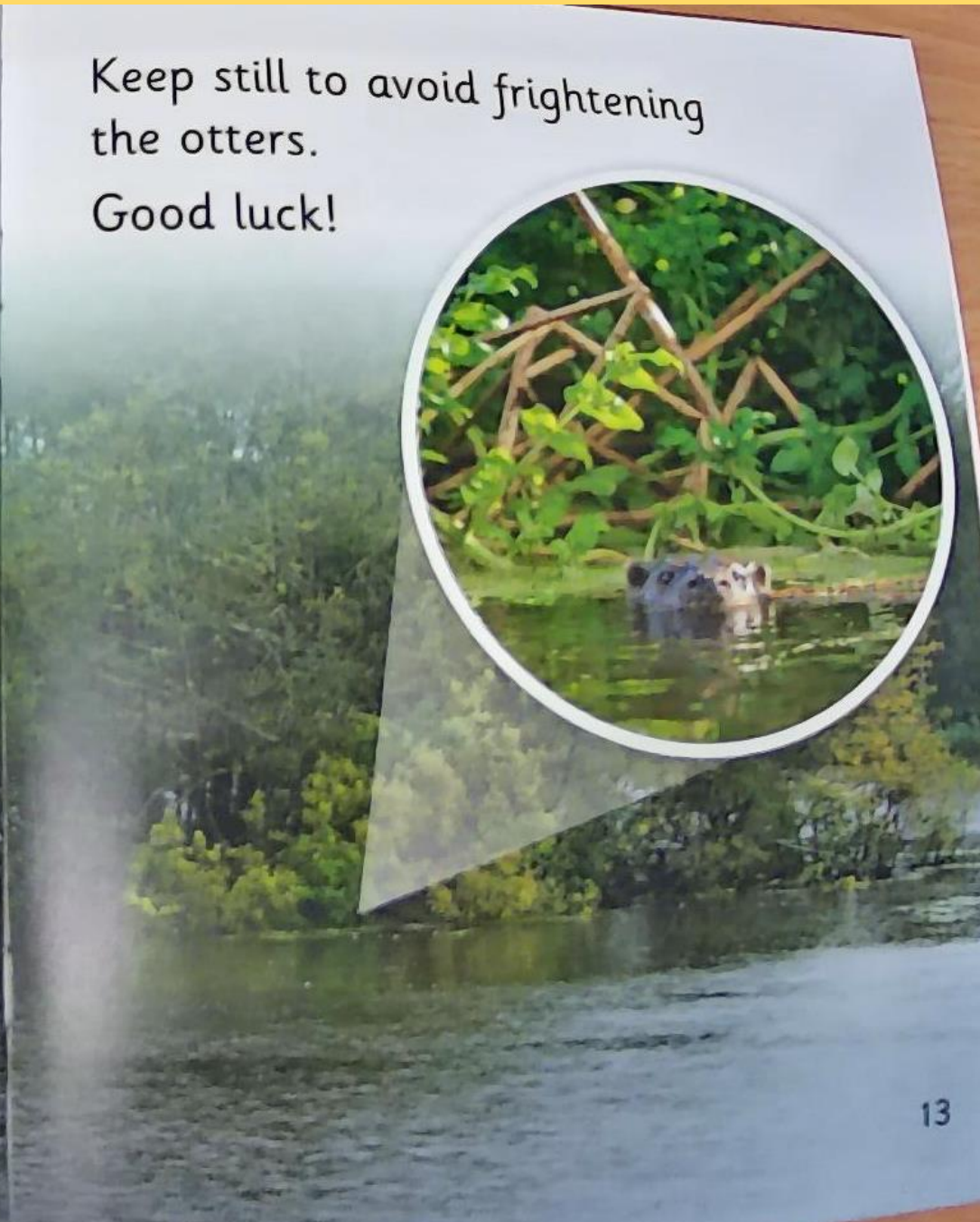
Otter spotting

You might spot otters in an unspoilt habitat. This river bank might be good.



Keep still to avoid frightening the otters.

Good luck!



Otter facts

Look: sleek brown fur,
little ears



Skill: strong swimmers



Food: fish, frogs, crabs,
shellfish



Den: holts





After reading



Letters and Sounds: Phase 4

Word count: 163

Focus on adjacent consonants with short vowel phonemes

Common exception words: to, of, by, be, you, they, are, like, little, when, out, what, the, do

Curriculum links: Science: Animals

National Curriculum learning objectives: Spoken language: listen and respond appropriately to adults and their peers; Reading/Word reading: apply phonic knowledge and skills as the route to decode words, read accurately by blending sounds in unfamiliar words containing GPCs that have been taught, read other words of more than one syllable that contain taught GPCs, read aloud accurately books that are consistent with their developing phonic knowledge; Reading/Comprehension: understand ... books they can already read accurately and fluently ... by drawing on what they already know or on background information and vocabulary provided by the teacher

Developing fluency

- Your child may enjoy hearing you read the book. Model reading with lots of expression.
- Now ask your child to read some of the book again, reading with expression.

Phonic practice

- Model sounding out the following word, saying each of the sounds quickly and clearly. Then blend the sounds together.
c/t/ear
- Ask your child to say each of the sounds in the following words. How many sounds are there in each one?
creep (4) smart (4) between (6) throat (4)
- Now ask your child if they can read each of the words without sounding them out.

Extending vocabulary

- Ask your child if they can tell you the antonym (opposite) of each word below.
dark (light) good (bad) under (over) little (big) bottom (top)

Comprehension

- Ask your child:
 - What do otters eat? (fish, frogs, crabs, shellfish)
 - Can you remember the name of an otter's den? (holt)
 - What else did you learn about otters?
- Turn to pages 14 and 15 and look at the 'Otter facts', asking your child to explain each fact in more detail, using the pages of the book for support.
- Discuss why otters might be difficult to spot (e.g. they prefer to come out at night, their holts are well hidden).

Further reading

Tusks (Blue/Band 4) is a fiction story about a walrus and a narwhal that also covers adjacent consonants with long vowel phonemes from Phase 4 of Letters and Sounds.



for Letters and Sounds

Published by Collins
An imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers
The News Building
1 London Bridge Street
London
SE1 9GF

Browse the complete Collins catalogue at
www.collins.co.uk

Text © Emma Heddle 2018
Design and illustrations © HarperCollinsPublishers Limited 2018

10 9 8 7 6

ISBN 978-0-00-625164-2

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the Publisher or a licence permitting restricted copying in the United Kingdom issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency Ltd, 90 Tottenham Lane, London, EC6A 3JN.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Author: Emma Heddle
Reading voice author: Rachel Ross
Series editors: Charlotte Ruby and Emily Gaille-Morrett
In-house commissioning editor: Sarah Thomas
Commissioning editor: Catherine Baker
In-house project lead: Caroline Green
Project manager: Emily Huxton
Copyeditor: Sally Byford
Proofreader: Guyton Spry
Picture researcher: Shelley Norrish
Designer: Ken Vail Graphic Design Ltd
Production controller: Sarah Burke
Printed in Great Britain by Marston the Printers

Get the latest Collins Big Cat news at
www.collins.co.uk/collinsbigcat

The publishers gratefully acknowledge the permission granted to reproduce the copyright material in this book. Every effort has been made to trace copyright holders and to obtain their permission for the use of copyright material. The publishers will gladly receive any information enabling them to rectify any error or omission at the first opportunity.

Front cover: Eric Isenhardt/istockphoto; p1 John Goodway/Alamy Stock Photo; pp2-3 National Geographic Creative/Alamy Stock Photo; pp4-5 Eric Isenhardt/istockphoto; p6 Henrik Larsson/istockphoto; p7 Charlie Hamilton Jones/Getty Images; p8 iStockphoto/Alamy Stock Photo; p9 Jack Parker/FLPA; p1 Nick Upson/Nature Picture Library; p11 John Goodway/Alamy Stock Photo; pp12-13 Andy Rouse/2020VISCOP/Nature Picture Library; p14 Andy Rouse/2020VISCOP/Nature Picture Library; p14-15 National Geographic Creative/Alamy Stock Photo; p16 Charlie Hamilton Jones/Getty Images; p17 Jack Parker/FLPA; p18 Nick Upson/Nature Picture Library; back cover iStockphoto/Alamy Stock Photo.



MEX
Paper from
responsible sources
FSC® C007454

This book is produced from independently
certified FSC paper to ensure responsible
forest management.

For more information visit
www.collins.co.uk/green