VSCI 329 Information Illustration Tivadar Bote Project 1: Something You Can't See Information Broadsheet October 11th, 2022 Clara Strum



Initial Ideas:

References of Japanese Otters: ↓ (these two are Eurasian otters) ↓



















Shikoku Island Japan: (Shimanto River, Susaki)















Inspiration and Colours:













Thumbnails and idea generation:



Exploration:













The Disappearance of the Japanese Otter The Disappearance of the Japanese Otter

Rockwell Bold Poppins Semibold Optima Bold Macha Medium Gurmuhki MN Bold Futura Medium

-This species is also known as water cat since they have the habit of playing with their prey before consuming them as food.

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-This species is also known as water cat since they have the habit of playing with their prey before consuming them as food.

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-This species is also known as water cat since they have the habit of playing with their prey before consuming them as food.

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Subhead: Futura Medium 22pt

Subhead 2: Capitolina ExtraBold Italic 16pt

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The Disappearance of the Japanese Otter

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The Japanese Otter: Now a Memory

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An Introduction

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The Japanese Otter:

The Japanese Otter: Now a Memory

An Introduction

The Japanese River Otter, known as *Lutta* nippo, were dueive creatures that once lived on the riverides of Shikoku Island Japan, basking in the sun during the days and hunting fish all night (see Fig 1A), Until the 120s Japanese otters were commonly dipersed throughput the main Islands of Japan, including Hokérado, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyuhuh However, due to the Meiji Restoration in the late 1800s, a new policy of wealth emerged, and so the However, due to the Meiji Restoration in the late 1800s, a new policy of wealth emerged, and so the However, due to the Meiji Restoration in the late 1800s, a new policy of wealth emerged, and Kyuhuh However, due to the Meiji Restoration in the late 1800s, a new policy of wealth emerged, and Kyuhuh Hoy of Susaki, Shikoka (see Fig 1S). Japanese otters would reach around 65 to 80 centimeters, with thick, kush dark-brown fur, short webbed feet and a long fluid body perfect for maneuvering through vare. The diagram above will serve as an egpreciation for the life of the spanse otter, deving into thefull life cycle from when they were born to the endof their lives, as well as highlighting some interesting fleatures and facts about these creatures.

Unique Features

Japanese River Otters are characterized for having thick coats of brown fur, short webbed feet, and long talk. They were often calm and passive during the days, and whilely energetic at hight as they would eased for lowed. These critics are sense they would eased for lowed. These critics are sense they would eased for lowed. These critics are sense they would eased for lowed that lapanese Chers eares and the sense of the sense of the sense that lapanese Otters would search for food for 6 hours every night, however they could swim underwater for no more than 2 minutes at a time.



Fig 1. A map of Shikoku Island, Japan depicting the geographic location of where Japanese River Otters used to liv

This is different from their relatives the Eurasian Otters who swim with their bodies fully immersed and their heads above the water, as they would only last around 40 seconds underwater. Additionally, an interesting trait of these otters is their ability to adjust to the seasons, be completely shedding their under-fur in the months of May, June, July and August. Further, they would shed their guard hair fully off in the months of settember, October and November.

The Timeline

Infancy

Infancy

Young Japanese otters live the first month of their lives completely blind, making them entirely helpless and vulnerable. Luckly for the bables, female otter mothers would nurse them for more than 6 hours a day, teaching them important survival lessons, and fercely protecting them. Once the baby otter would reach 4 months old, their mother would begin to feed them solid food, and teach them how to properly haut in rivers.



3 Adult Life

n Early

y and Adduss - Furniter, ard hair fully off in the tober and November. **Early Adulthood**

After the first year of an otter's life, they are considered as an adult, and must prepare to live a life of solitude until mating season. When it is mating season, the male otters would make an effort to find a mate by calling out to females for permission, and then moving on if they were declined. The female otter would roll around with the male otter to let them know they want to mate. After reproduction, male and female otters would rarely live together, however. Japanese otters of their lives,

having as little as one and as many as six offspring per litter. and searching for food. These creatures were noctrumal, so they would search for food when waverage of 6 hours every night ooking for food. They would search 10 miles in diameter around their habital, ooking for seafood such as crabs, shrimp, and fish. The otters were not very demanding when it came to selecting their food so they would est everything their habitat offered them, as they sw would consume about 15% to 25% of their body weight. They were known to be the main carnivores of the aquatic food chain in their

Gone, But Never Forgotten

The dese beautiful creatures no longer exist, and this is due to us. In ancient: Japan, Japanese otters were believed to be a form of medicine, thought to care tuberculosis. This caused an early incentive to hard these revo otters. In the late 1800s in early Japan, the Meiji Restoration brought about a new policy of seadth and military process. As Japan was adopting a more materialistic, weatern view of wealth, the densided Japanese is of the weat fur roce extremely the theorem and the weat explanation of the sead of the sead of the sead of wealth, the densided Japanese is of the weat pupulation are used of the sead of the sead of the pupulation and pupulation and the sead of the explanation of the sead of the sead of the sead of the designment of the sead of the sead of the sead of the pupulation and polarities caused by humman designment Japanese otter's habitats and left foreeast and survive.

sources of root and minerians to them to make dens and survives The death of this species could have been avoid ed if we regulated hunting them and made an effort to conserve their habitat. It is devastating that many species like the Japanese river other are hunted to extinction because the death of their role as a top predator disrupts the food web in Japan's rivers. They were a fascinating creatures, and now they no longer exist.

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