SUMMER ADVENTURES
ON THE ROAD

Into the Wild

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
DID YOU KNOW?

What do sharks, sea otters, orcas, and sponges have in common? For one thing, they share a habitat — Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Venture into the wilds of this rich ocean environment in the following activities. You’ll learn about these animals and imagine what their lives are like, and we’ll journey to the incredible Sur Ridge!

PG 3
Otter Chaos
Ages 4-8

PG 4
Sharks Are Smart
Ages 4-8

PG 5
Secret Killer
Ages 9+
Monterey Bay hosts many marine animals, but one stands out for its playfulness and, yes, cuteness. Learn about otters and their habitats, behaviors, and diets here and see otters in motion here.

TO DO
What did you learn? Discuss what you learned with your family or friends.

1. What type of animal is an otter — mammal, reptile, amphibian?
2. Describe the otter’s habitat.
3. What do they like to eat?
4. How do otters contribute to the health of the ecosystem?
5. Imagine you are on a scientific expedition to record otter behaviors. Draw what you might see, such as an otter swimming, playing, taking care of its young, or resting in its habitat.
SHARKS ARE SMART
ACTIVITY | Ages 4-8

TO DO
As National Geographic Kids reports, “Sharks are smart, sleek, and totally misunderstood.” To learn more about what exactly sharks are, where they live, and what makes them ocean superheroes, watch this two-minute episode of Things You Wanna Know.

In Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary several kinds of sharks roam the waters. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes. The species include:

- Broadnose sevengill shark
- Whale shark
- Filetail catshark
- Horn shark
- Pacific angel shark
- Gray smoothhound

1. Read about these and other sharks that inhabit national marine sanctuaries here. Pick a shark species to research, then share what you discover with friends or family.

2. Learn more about sharks around the world here.

3. Discuss with your family or friends what makes sharks “smart” and “cool.”

4. Draw a shark of your choice.
SECRET KILLER
ACTIVITY | Ages 9+

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary hosts many marine animals, but one stands out for its power and appearance. The orca can weigh as much as 10 short tons and leap its large body entirely out of the ocean. It is often called a “killer whale” because it is a fierce predator of ocean animals. But orcas are going missing along the California coast, and scientists are trying to discover why.

TO DO
View the video Secret Killers of Monterey Bay, in which scientists set out to find the culprit before it’s too late.

What did you learn? Discuss what you learned with a friend or family member.

1. What is the difference between “transient” and “resident” whales?
2. Why are scientists concerned?
3. How do whales contribute to the ecosystem?
4. What did the scientists find is the “secret killer” of killer whales?
5. How might the disappearance of whales affect other life in the sanctuary?
6. Imagine you are on a scientific expedition to record orca behaviors. Draw what you might see, perhaps an orca swimming, blowing, or breaching!
FULL LINKS

PG 3
Otter
https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/otters-1

Otter Chaos
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mF6ijhSrbBQ

PG 4
Shark Tale
https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/pages/article/shark-tale

Sharks in the Sancuaries  I NOAA
https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/aug14/sharks.html

Sharks
https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/animals-a-to-z/sharks

PG 5
Secret Killers of Monterey Bay
https://www.nationalgeographic.org/media/secret-killers-of-monterey-bay/