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| About this Resource:  *This text set centers around the topic of a high-quality read aloud anchor text, in order to build students’ knowledge and vocabulary. Anchor texts are a part of Student Achievement Partners’ Read Aloud Project and full lesson plans are hyperlinked. Each Related Text is a suggested lightweight resource that connects to the topic of the read aloud and builds student knowledge and vocabulary. Also included are high-interest, topically related Optional Supporting Resources and Writing/Culminating Tasks in varied genres. Suggested resources are free or almost free (requiring a teacher license or sign on) and can be used as read aloud texts or for small group or independent reading depending on their complexity. All are intended to be optional resources for the classroom and teachers are encouraged to modify, adapt, or supplement these text sets with related resources. Text Sets are intended to support approximately two weeks of instruction. For additional suggestions for use, read this blog post:* [*https://achievethecore.org/aligned/reading-to-learn/*](https://achievethecore.org/aligned/reading-to-learn/)*.* |

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| **Key Content (Synopsis of two weeks)** | |
| Read Aloud:  The Raft  <http://achievethecore.org/page/2574/the-raft> | **Synopsis of Text:**  Nicky reluctantly spends the summer in the Wisconsin woods with his grandmother, who is an artist. He is not thrilled with all of the chores and country living but then a raft appears and changes everything. The raft works a subtle magic as he explores, opening up the wonders all around him: the animals of the river and the woods, his Grandmother’s humor and wisdom, and his own talent as an artist. He appreciates things and people in a whole new light. |
| Related Text 1:  River Otters  <https://www.readinga-z.com/books/leveled-books/book/?id=2884&lang=English> | **Synopsis, highlighting related learning:**  This short book will introduce basic information about river otters to students. In the read-aloud text, Nicky sees many different river animals, including river otters. This book provides physical traits as well as simple information about where they live. |
| Related Text 2:  North American River Otters  <https://www.dkfindout.com/us/animals-and-nature/otters/north-american-river-otter/> | **Synopsis, highlighting related learning:**  This article will continue to help students build knowledge about river otters. It provides more specific information about their habitat, what they eat, and their behavioral patterns. There are two links on the image that can be clicked to tell students more about their velvety fur and their powerful tails. |
| Related Text 3:  Otters: The Life of the Sea  <http://easyscienceforkids.com/all-about-otters/> | **Synopsis, highlighting related learning:**  This article provides additional information for students about otters, both sea otters and river otters. Students learn about the unique behavioral and physical characteristics of otters such as playfulness, webbed feet, and how they can be a danger to humans. Also featured is a short video about a river otter at the San Diego Zoo.  *Teacher’s note: Because the article includes information about both sea and river otters, students may need assistance focusing on and pulling out specific information about river otters.* |

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| **Optional Supporting Resources** | |
| River Otters at Play  <http://www.wildcenter.org/dig-in/return-of-the-wild/river-otters-at-play/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw78vLBRCZARIsACr4cxwKWHFY00UFg6MaevU-MK8NPH7lF0ePkPkBqzjEjncEn7QvISfEpJMaAmiyEALw_wcB> | **Description/rationale for inclusion:**  This two-minute informational video highlights information about some river otters that live in a nature center. The biologist from the center explains how they live, what they eat, and about some of their physical characteristics and behavior.  *Note: This website also offers information on other topics. Previewing the website and setting it up for the desired video link prior to use would be helpful.* |
| All About Rivers  <https://www.dkfindout.com/us/video/earth/all-about-rivers/> | **Description/rationale for inclusion:**  This is an article that is accompanied by audio and visual aids to explain what a river is. This would be a helpful optional resource for students if they need further information in understanding a river otter’s habitat. |
| **Writing/Culminating Tasks** | |
| Text Type 1:  Narrative | **Description of task:**  Imagine that you went to visit Nicky at his grandmother’s house and the two of you went to observe the river otters from the raft. Write a story to share what you would see as you watched the otters. Be sure to:   * Use information that you have learned about otters to tell the events in your story * Use sequence words and give details about what happened * Provide an ending to your story |
| Text Type 2:  Opinion | **Description of task:**  In your opinion, do you think a river otter would make a good pet? In your writing, state your opinion clearly, provide at least one reason for your opinion and include a conclusion. |
| Task Type 3:  Research | **Description of task:**  You have learned interesting information about river otters. Think about the other animals that Nicky saw when he was on his raft: crane, turtle, raccoon, fox, deer, crayfish, heron, and more. With a partner, select one of these animals to research. Read to find information about their habitat, behavior, and what they eat. Write a one-page article to share your findings in a class book about animals that live near rivers. Be sure to:   * Give your article page a title * Provide facts and information that you have learned, illustrations that support your facts, and a conclusion   *Note: Students could use the local or school library for informational resources, or the following website may be helpful:* [*https://www.dkfindout.com/us/*](https://www.dkfindout.com/us/) |
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