

Conservation

Fun Outdoors!

Have you ever preserved a snowflake? It's easy using microscope slides, thin superglue, cover slips, and a day with light snowfall (not a snowstorm). Chill everything in a freezer about 30 minutes. Go outside and catch a few flakes on the slide. Put a drop of superglue over each flake, then lightly drop a cover slip on top. Put the slide in a freezer for at least a week to cure completely. You've preserved a snowflake!

Hunting Tip

Have you ever wanted to learn about trapping? This time of year is prime trapping time! And this year, the only license you need if you are a resident 17 or younger is the new annual youth super hunting license. It allows you to trap year-round without any other licenses or permits. Ask around to find someone who will take you out and teach you about trapping. You might even earn some money by selling some furs!

Fishing Tip

It's trout time in Oklahoma! This non-native fish loves cold water. So the Wildlife Department stocks trout in eight different fishing areas during the winter months. (And two of those areas are actually stocked with trout all year long!) Grab some light tackle and get your mom or dad to join you for a fun wintertime fishing trip. You might be able to enjoy some tasty trout fillets for dinner!

for Kids!

Word Search: Oklahoma's Rivers

S	H	H	K	O	Y	Q	H	R	J	H	Y	W	O	E	Y	C	I	T	T
A	P	C	R	A	Y	F	I	S	H	K	F	F	Q	X	B	N	G	T	F
N	U	D	Z	S	Y	C	D	X	D	Q	A	B	F	D	L	T	T	W	I
D	A	T	J	B	D	S	N	W	N	Z	E	A	D	J	U	J	Z	N	V
B	N	Y	A	E	E	R	T	F	U	W	J	O	G	R	G	E	T	P	H
A	P	M	S	A	R	M	A	N	G	K	V	S	N	N	L	X	Q	W	A
R	Z	I	G	V	Z	T	L	G	E	S	V	U	B	A	E	V	A	E	P
U	N	N	R	E	T	A	W	U	O	R	B	O	J	L	C	Z	P	N	F
D	J	M	O	R	T	K	L	U	D	N	R	C	O	A	C	W	E	Q	K
Z	K	N	F	F	J	L	S	I	Q	T	F	U	R	Q	Q	V	U	J	P
T	G	K	L	H	P	M	V	B	A	X	H	L	C	L	F	G	M	N	F
T	V	F	S	I	J	X	A	F	Q	T	T	L	Y	S	O	I	L	U	L
L	A	K	K	K	N	M	E	W	R	E	T	T	O	I	V	G	S	Z	I
Y	X	N	N	X	C	K	L	D	N	D	Q	A	C	I	P	C	U	H	B
I	S	L	A	R	M	O	B	Y	K	N	L	T	C	U	G	L	H	O	Z
W	J	E	B	C	M	U	R	J	U	E	X	G	V	I	O	G	C	X	P

Find and circle these things that you might see in or around a river in Oklahoma.

Bank
Cattail
Dragonfly
Rocks

Beaver
Crayfish
Fish
Sandbar

Canoe
Current
Otter
Water

COOL FACTS About River Otters:

- This playful, lively animal loves water and land equally.
- They are slender, dark brown mammals with gold highlighting their face and chest.
- They can be up to 4 feet long and weigh between 15 and 20 pounds.
- River otters can live 15 to 20 years.
- Flexible spines make them perfectly suited for swimming.
- Wherever you find beavers, there are likely river otters in the same area.
- The river otter's nostrils and ears close when it is submerged.
- It has a very thick, waterproof coat that keeps water away from the skin.
- Their diet includes fish, frogs, turtles, crayfish, and sometimes the eggs of ground-nesting birds.
- Females give birth to two or three offspring, which are born helpless.
- Oklahoma's current hunting/trapping season for river otters opened Dec. 1, 2024, and will close Feb. 28, 2025. The season bag limit is 6.



Color a Critter: River Otter

