

PHILADELPHIA ZOO

You may think they're twins, but they're not.

The two elephants that live at the Philadelphia Zoo are different species. One look at their ears, and you'll know it's true!

One elephant is an African elephant. The other is an Asian elephant. But which is which? Remember, look at the ears! The ears of an African elephant are bigger. They also appear to be the shape of Africa. An Asian elephant's ears are much smaller.

The ears of these two species aren't their only difference. The Asian elephant is lighter than the African elephant by about 2,000 pounds. An African elephant can weigh up to 12,000 pounds, making it the largest animal on Earth.

Another difference is in the shape of their trunk. The trunk of an African elephant has two small tips, which allow it to pick up small objects. The Asian elephant only has one tip on the end of its trunk.

Ears, trunk and weight are differences, but how are these species of elephants alike?

Both species are highly intelligent creatures with a very good sense of smell. They feed from plants to plants and catch fish in shallow water with their powerful trunks, or they dive deep to search for prey. Giant otters can eat up to 10 pounds of food a day!

All that food makes them very large. The giant otters of South America are almost twice the size of otters in North America.

At special times at the Philadelphia Zoo, you can watch the keepers feed the giant otters, and, afterward, watch as they splash and splash and splash their bodies!

Conservation Corner

Do you have a message about conservation that you'd like the others to hear? Use the space below to write it. These make sure that you share it!

This is my message to you.

PHILMUSEUM.ORG AND ANSWER THIS QUESTION: **red animals are being studied in the "With Nature" program?**

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Splash, splash... they're taking a bath.

The giant otters at the Philadelphia Zoo are really fun to watch. The largest of all the otters, their huge six-foot bodies are made to be swimming machines.

The giant otters live in the tropical subtropics of South America. They swim in freshwater rivers, creeks and lakes.

At the Philadelphia Zoo, you can see the otters swim in a freshwater tank. Their tubular bodies, webbed feet and paddle-like tails propel them through the water very quickly.

In the wild, this helps them find lots of food. They feed from plants to plants and catch fish in shallow water with their powerful trunks, or they dive deep to search for prey. Giant otters can eat up to 10 pounds of food a day!

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The Zoo and You!

Next time you see at the Philadelphia Zoo, visit the giant otters and answer these questions:

1. In the chilly water, how do the giant otters stay warm?
2. What are a few ways the giant otters play with one another?
3. What did you learn from watching the giant otters?

Pollution = Death

The giant otters are endangered because of hunting, habitat destruction and water pollution. This pollution is a serious problem, not only for the giant otters, but also for the other animals that live in and use these waters. Look through today's newspaper for stories about how pollution affects humans. Use information from these stories to create a poster that helps others become aware of pollution's dangers.

Cyber Challenge!

Visit the Philadelphia Zoo online at www.philmusem.org and answer this question: **What are at least 2 special events happening at the Philadelphia Zoo over the next several months?**

Giant Otter

marvelous MONSTERS

at the Philadelphia Zoo

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PECO
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LAST YEAR WE ACQUIRED THE RIGHTS TO THE MONSTER MOVIE IN EUROPE

created for: Philadelphia Zoo

in partnership with the Philadelphia Inquirer News in Education Program

services provided: content development, editing and graphic design

what it is: curriculum supplement for students with educational activities tied to state and national standards

related work: Hollister and its NIE partners have produced sponsored teacher guides and student curriculum supplements for other cultural organizations, including Academy of Natural Sciences, Annenberg Center, Colonial Williamsburg, Detroit Science Center, Franklin Institute, Penn Museum, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia Museum of Art, and Winterthur