

Adaa's Story

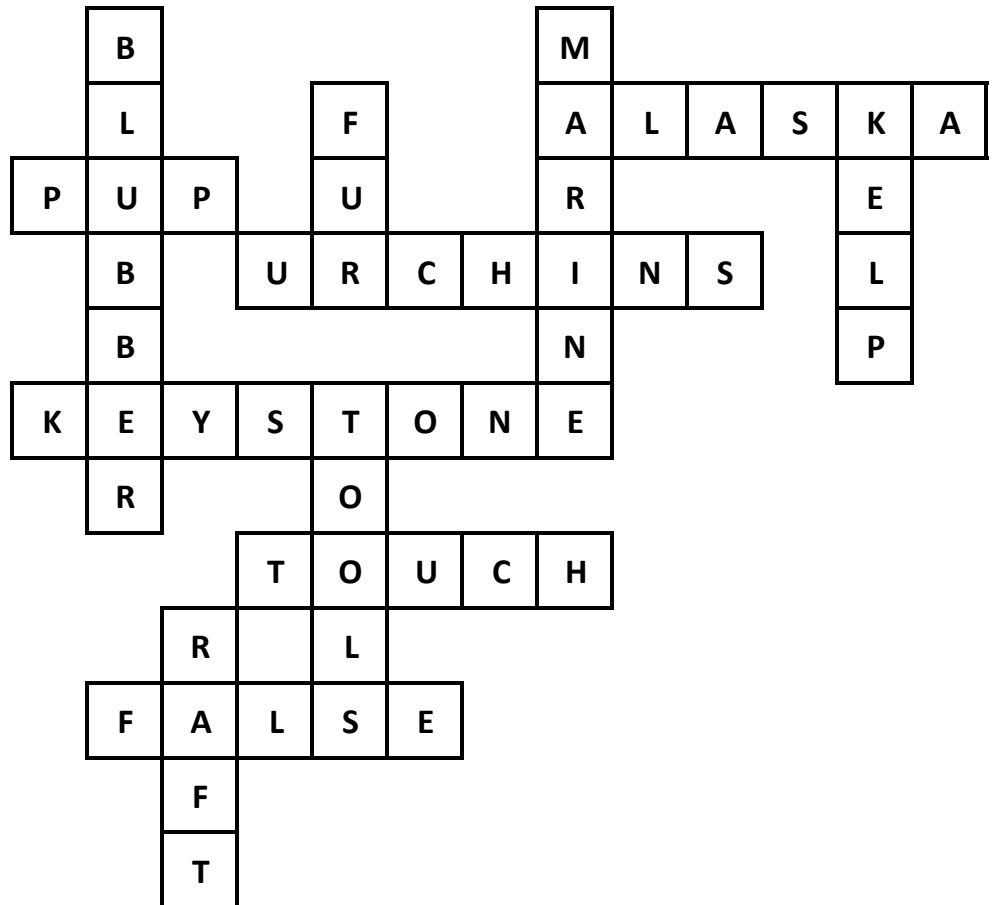
by Rachel J.E. Sprague

Crossword Puzzle – Answer Key

DOWN:

1. Sea otters rely on their dense fur for warmth because they do not have a layer of **blubber** like most marine mammals.
2. Sea otters are the smallest **marine** mammal in North America.
3. Sea otters have the densest **fur** of any animal.
[up to one million hairs per square inch]
5. Mother sea otters will often wrap their babies in **kelp** so they don't float away.
9. Sea otters use rocks as **tools** to open hard shells.
11. A group of sea otters floating together is called a **raft**.

Answer Key



ACROSS:

4. It is believed that about ninety percent of the world's sea otters live off the coast of **Alaska**.
6. A baby sea otter is called a **pup**.
7. Sea otters eat spiny sea **urchins**, and in doing so help protect the kelp forests.
8. Sea otters are a **keystone** species because they play a key role in having a healthy ecosystem.
[sea urchins would destroy the kelp forests if not for sea otters keeping sea urchin populations down]
10. If you ever find a stranded sea otter, never try to **touch** it.
12. True or False: Baby sea otters love to dive underwater. **FALSE** – their fur is even denser than adult sea otters. So dense that they can't dive underwater even if they tried. They can only float.