

Sea Otter Secrets

1. **True or False:** Answer the following statements by circling if they are true or false.

a. Sea otters have 1,000 hairs per square inch of fur.

True

False

b. Sea otter pups stay with their mom for six months.

True

False

c. They use their flippers to hold rocks to crack open clams and urchins.

True

False

2. **Matching Game:** The sea otters at The Marine Mammal center are fed lots of delicious food to keep them healthy and happy. Match each menu item by drawing a line from the food item to the correct amount they are given while we rehabilitate them. (*Helpful hint: the clam amount is in the shell and out of the shell added together!*)



3.2

1.5

2

.5

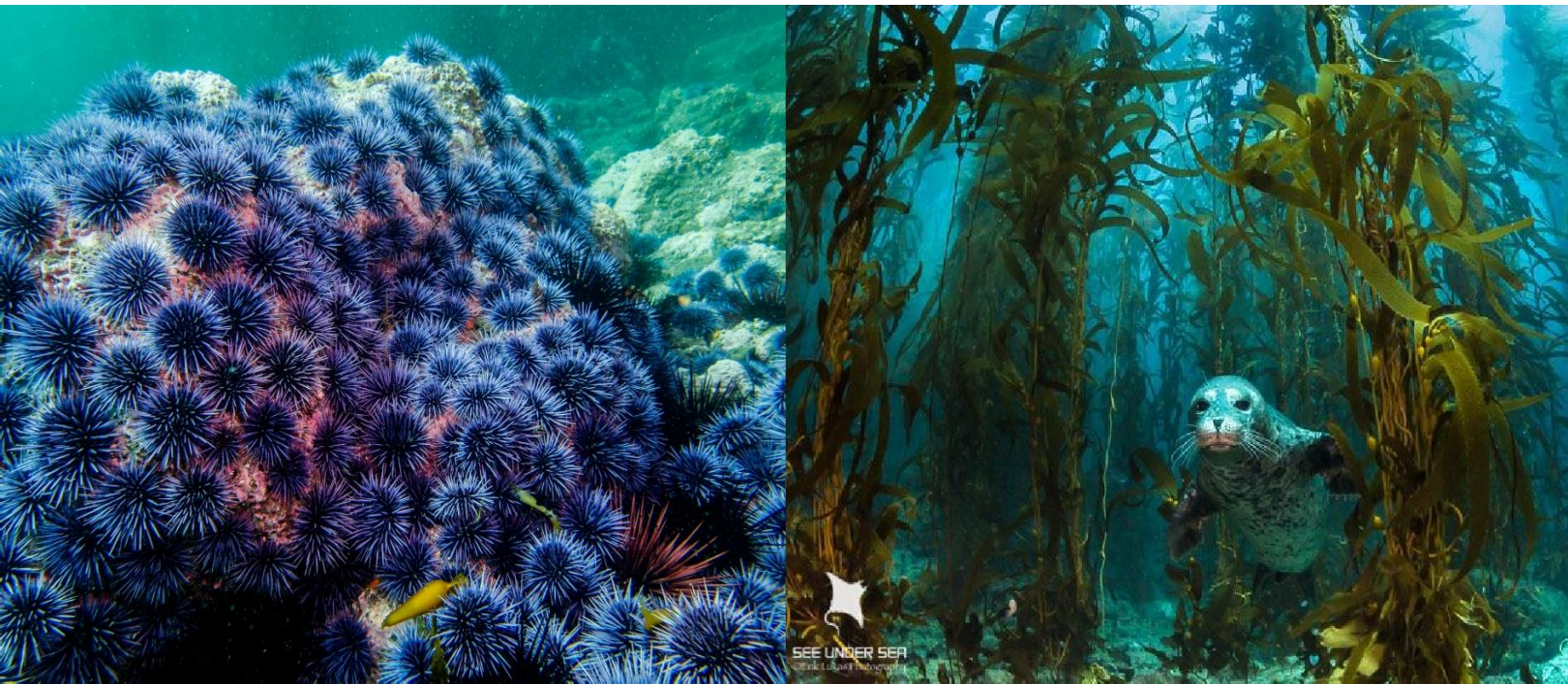




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3. **Can you spot the difference?** Sea otters help to fight climate change by keeping kelp forests healthy! In order to have a healthy kelp forest that stores excess carbon dioxide, all of the animals in that ecosystem must be in balance. Sea otters feed on urchins, and urchins feed on kelp. If otters are endangered, then the urchin populations grow, and destroy the kelp forest.

In this activity, examine the two photos below. On the left you see an urchin barren, which was formerly a kelp ecosystem. On the right, you see a balanced and healthy kelp forest. Spot three differences between the ecosystems and write them below:



1.

2.

3.

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4. **Save the sea otter!** Southern sea otters are an endangered species, with only an estimated 3,200 in California. They face many threats that lead to their endangered status, circle their main threats below.

Malnutrition

Maternal Separation

Ocean Noise

Predation



Oil Spills

Ship Strike

Even though these animals are endangered, you can help! You can take a pledge to help sea otters by drawing in the box below how you will help sea otters, and then write a description of your commitment. There are many ways to help sea otters; composting, encouraging your community to use solar energy, and figuring out ways to walk or bike to school or the park are just a few examples, but there are many more! Use your imagination and check out website for more information.

www.marinemammalcenter.org The Marine Mammal Center and the Southern sea otters thank you for your efforts!