Answer the following questions from the following article

*Ecology of Seaweed and its Environmental Significance*

<https://www.ccber.ucsb.edu/collections-botanical-collections-algae/ecology-seaweed-and-its-environmental-significance>

1. In what way are Kelp forests similar to terrestrial forests?

They provide an extensive ecosystem for many organisms from the sea floor to the ocean’s surface

1. What does it mean by seaweed being a “primary producer”?

It makes it’s own food from the sun

1. Apart from food, what else does kelp provide?

Shelter for many forms of sealife

1. What is meant by a holdfast?

Its like the root of the kelp – it is what attaches the kelp to the rock

1. What do air bladders help the kelp to do?

Float to the surface to help it reach sunlight

1. Name an organism that you might find living on or around kelp

Sea urchins, brittle stars, sea stars, sponges, crabs, octopi, small fish, otters.

1. Why are otters called a Keystone Species?

Because they play an extremely important role in maintaining the structure of the ecological community.

1. Why can sea urchins be a problem for the kelp?

Because they feed on holdfasts of kelp.

1. Why were sea otter numbers greatly reduced in California?

Because they were hunted

1. What is a niche?

The role that a species has in an ecosystem in terms of its habitat and resources.