**Southern Sea Otters: Are They Back from the Brink of Extinction?**

1. What human activities have interfered with the ecological niche of the Southern Sea Otter?
2. Describe a trait possessed by the southern sea otter that helps it (a) catch prey and (b) avoid being preyed upon?
3. Name two species whose populations will likely decline if the population of southern sea otter in kelp beds declines sharply. Name a species whose population would increase if this happened.
4. What two scientific principles of sustainability relates to sea otters?
5. List two characteristics of sea otters which make them somewhat unique, including the characteristic responsible for their near extinction.
6. What is a keystone species? How do sea otters act as a keystone species?

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