

Why did biodiversity increase with the introduction of sea otters in California over the last fifty years?



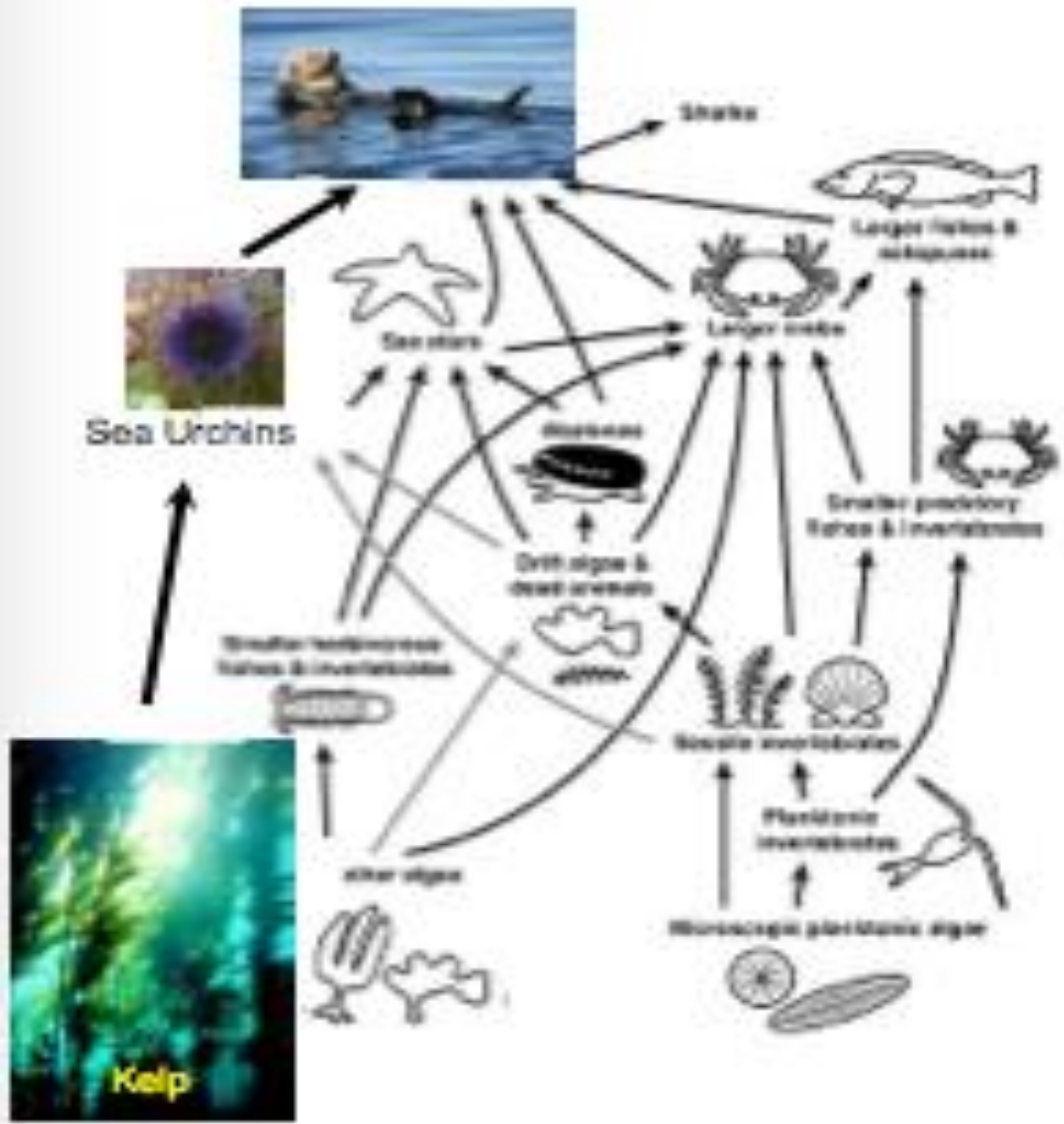
Without.



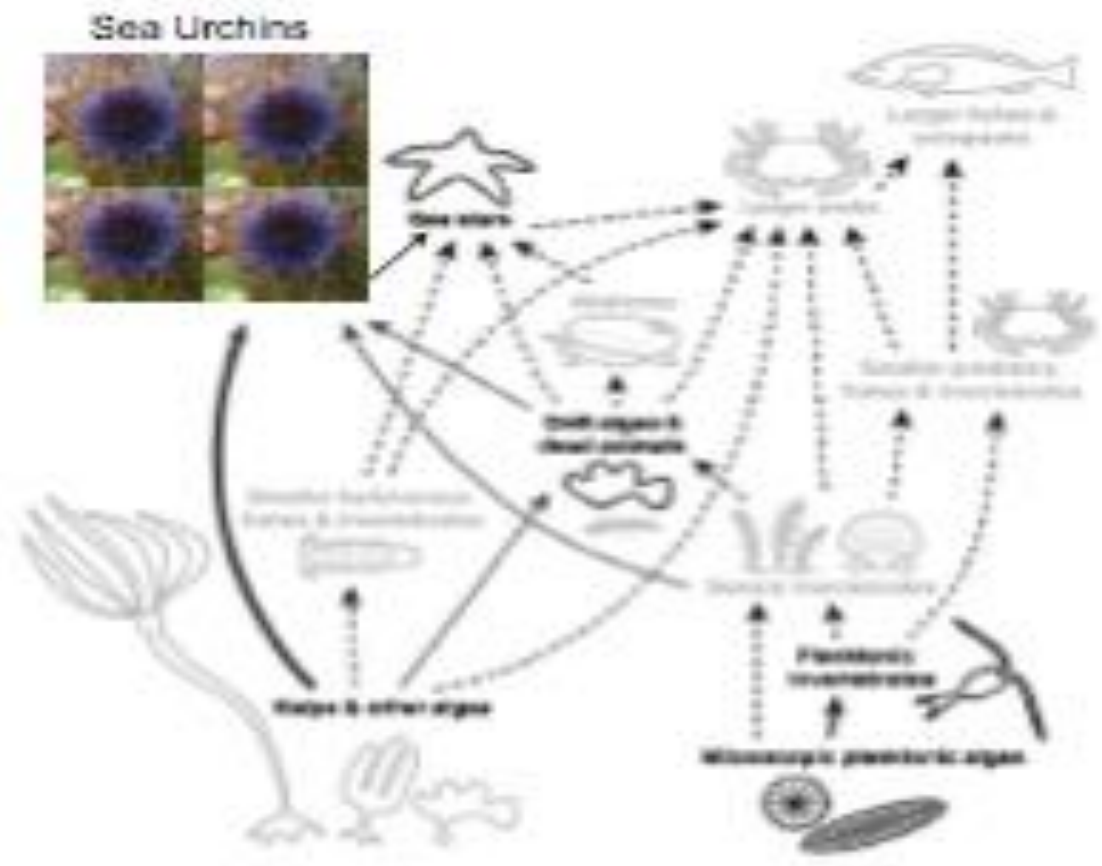
With Sea Otters...

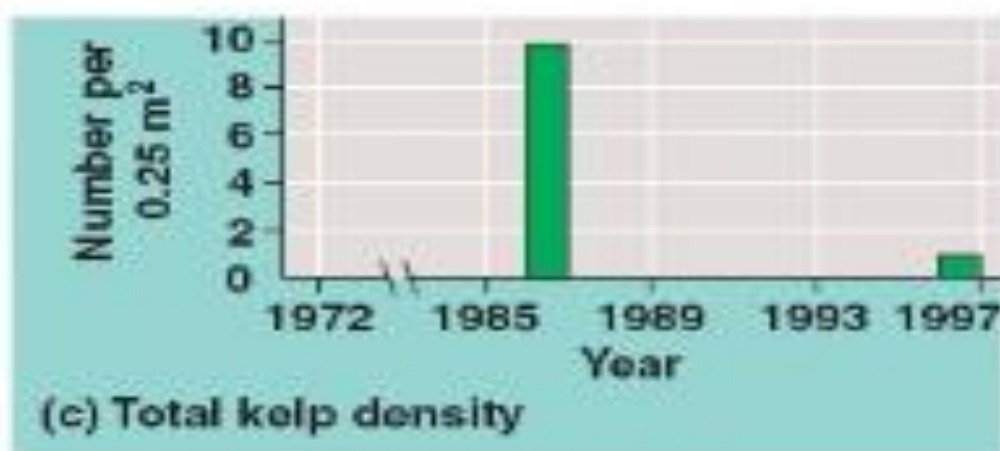
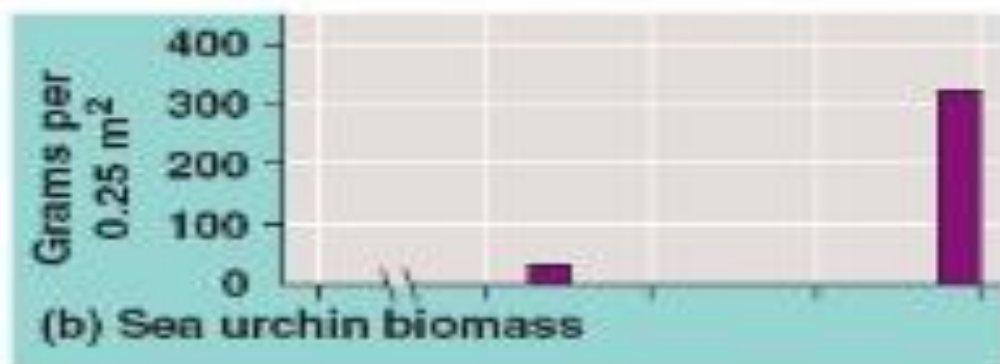
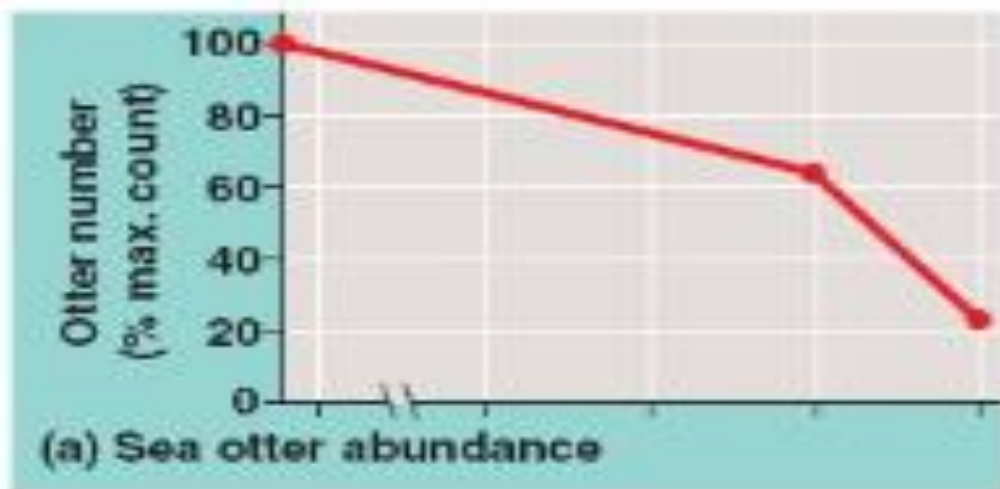


With sea otters kelp forest food web



Without sea otters barren food web





Instructions

- 1) In the three drawings, draw what is happening in the ecosystem before and after the introduction of the sea otters. Also, draw a picture of the ecosystem fifty years into the future.
- 2) In the boxes, draw and label the otters and their interactions with different factors (abiotic and biotic) in the ecosystem.
- 3) After drawing your models, use the lines to write an explanation about what is happening at each point in time.
- 4) For each picture, be sure to include the ideas from the “**Gotta Have Checklist**”

Gotta Have Checklist

- Show all the interactions the otter has with their environment (biotic and abiotic factors)
 - Identify the movement of energy within the system. Use arrows to show relationships.
- Describe how the otter is vital (key) to its system.