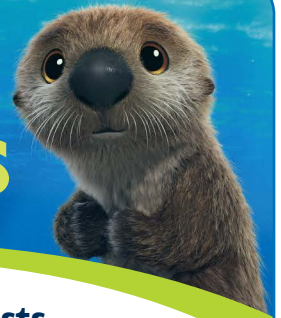


Seek the Sea Urchins



Why are kelp forests important?

A kelp forest is a type of marine ecosystem found off the rocky Pacific coast. This unique, rich habitat serves as shelter and a food source for thousands of fish, invertebrates and marine mammals. Sea urchins enjoy munching on the giant kelp while sea otters love to eat urchins! Without sea otters maintaining the population of sea urchins, the kelp forest would be overgrazed and the ecosystem could crash! This makes sea otters an important keystone species for kelp forests. Help the sea otter find all twelve sea urchins hiding in the kelp forest.

SEA URCHIN



Continuing The Search

Sea otters use tools such as rocks to break open the shells of some of their harder prey items like sea urchins, crabs and mussels. Can you find the special rock that our sea otter is going to use? It is an irregular shape with a flat base and three dark spots on the top of it.