Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Otters are keystone species because they control urchin populations, allowing kelp forests to thrive.

2. The balance shows a trophic cascade: fewer otters → more urchins → less kelp; more otters → fewer urchins → more kelp.

Multiple Choice

1. B

2. D

3. A

Matching

1-C, 2-A, 3-D, 4-E, 5-B

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) 10%, 2) Realized, 3) Phytoplankton

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Biodiversity provides alternative pathways in food webs, helping systems recover after disturbances.

Q2: Remoras attach to sharks and gain transport/food scraps without harming the shark.

Q3: Without predators, mid-level consumers grow unchecked, disrupting lower trophic levels.