Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. They are a keystone species because nearly every predator in the Southern Ocean relies on them as a food source.

2. Climate change reduces phytoplankton food supply, and human harvesting adds further pressure.

Multiple Choice

1. B

2. A

3. D

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) meroplankton, 2) phytoplankton, 3) migration

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: They transfer energy from phytoplankton to fish, which supports commercial fisheries worldwide.

Q2: By moving between surface and deep waters, they transport nutrients and carbon, fueling ecosystems and storing carbon.

Q3: They are abundant, efficient grazers, and form a critical base for food webs globally.