

An illustration of a white abalone on a brown rock. The abalone has a light-colored shell with several small, dark, circular spots and a spiral pattern. To the right of the abalone, a black arrow points towards a green seaweed plant. The background is a light blue sky. A white oval bubble is positioned above the abalone, containing the text "What are white abalone?".

**What are
white abalone?**

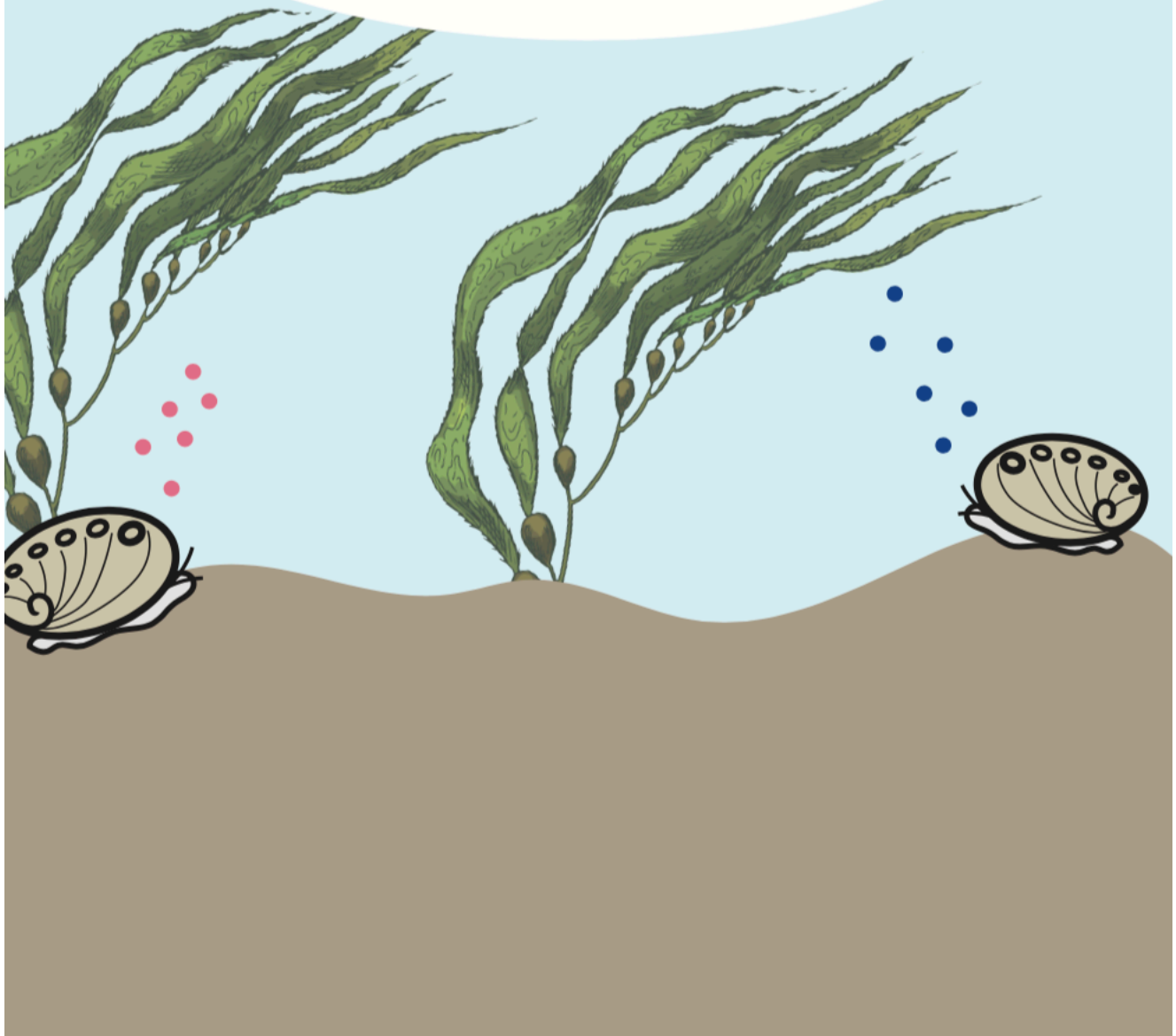
**Why do we care
about them?**

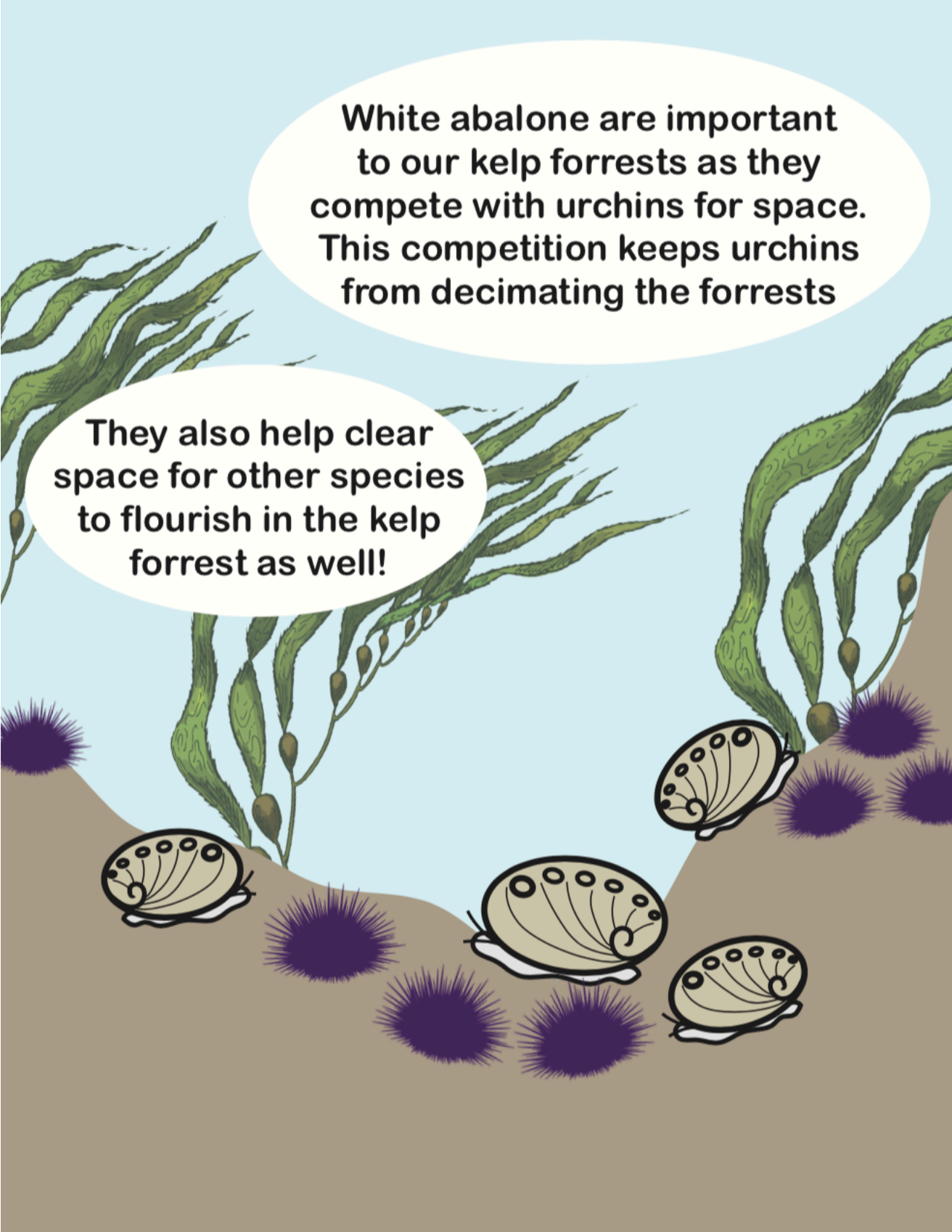
**White abalone are
an endangered,
plant-eating
marine snail**

**They were once
abundant before
overfishing nearly
wiped them out**



Now, their numbers are
low due to historic
overfishing, disease,
and poor reproduction



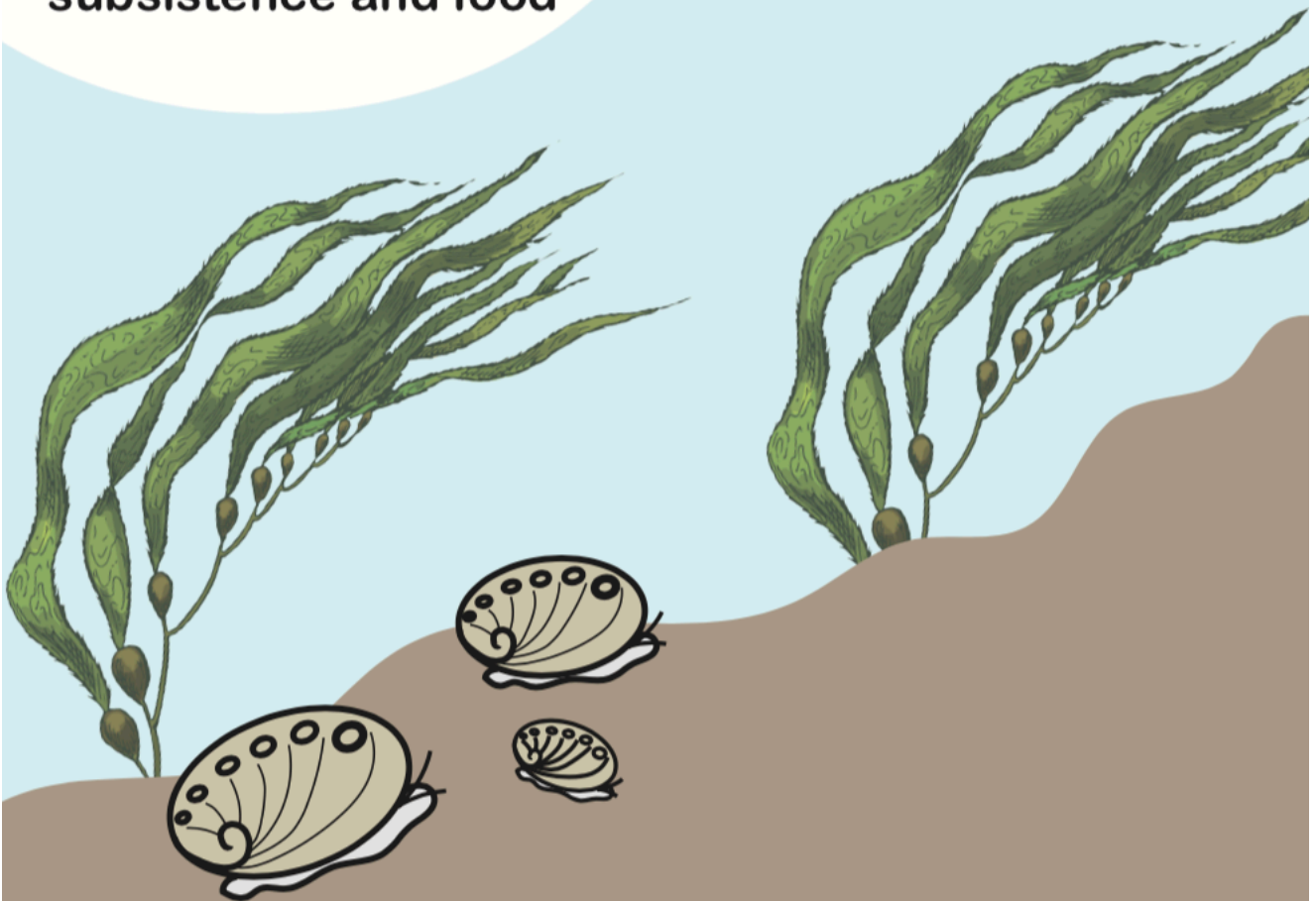
An illustration of a kelp forest. The background is a light blue sky. In the foreground, there is a brownish seabed. Several green kelp stalks with long, thin blades and small brown seed pods are growing from the seabed. On the seabed, there are four white abalones with black outlines and several purple, spiky urchins. Two white speech bubbles are overlaid on the scene. The top speech bubble contains text about white abalones competing with urchins for space. The bottom speech bubble contains text about white abalones clearing space for other species.

White abalone are important to our kelp forrests as they compete with urchins for space. This competition keeps urchins from decimating the forrests

They also help clear space for other species to flourish in the kelp forrest as well!

White abalone are also culturally and economically important in California. Their shells and meat were historically used for subsistence and food

This gives promise to their overall social importance in the future



To learn more about
white abalone and
The Bay Foundation's work
on abalone restoration,
visit our website at
www.santamonicabay.org

