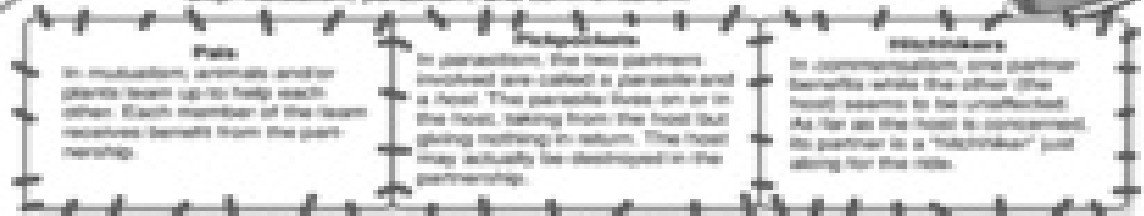


Name _____

Date _____

Patterns of Partnership

Symbiosis describes the type of relationship in which two organisms live closely together. In a symbiotic relationship, one or both members always benefit from the relationship. There are three patterns of symbiotic partnership: mutualism, parasitism, and commensalism.



Directions: Read about each relationship below. Using the definitions above, label each one as "mutualism," "parasitism," or "commensalism."

- _____ 1. The Nile crocodile lets the crocodile bird clean its teeth and mouth. The bird then eats the scraps of food from the crocodile's teeth. The bird also rid's its reptile partner of leeches and other harmful organisms.
- _____ 2. A tapeworm lives in the intestines of its host, absorbing the food that passes through. The worm causes discomfort and weight loss in its ill-fated host.
- _____ 3. The social weaver bird, which lives in Africa, builds its nest with added room for its partner, the puppy falcon. In return, the falcon fearfully protects the nest, providing protection for the little weaver bird.
- _____ 4. The crab spider looks like flower petals. The spider sits in a flower, waiting patiently for an insect to land. The spider then quickly eats the insect for a tasty treat.
- _____ 5. An epiphyte, a plant common in rain forests, lives on the branches of other plants. The epiphyte receives its nutrition from the air, rain, and sunlight.
- _____ 6. Bees drink nectar from flowers. At the same time, the bees carry away pollen, which then pollinates other flowers.
- _____ 7. Ticks live and feed upon dogs. The dog is irritated and sometimes harmed, for the ticks can carry germs and diseases. When the tick bites the dog, it can transfer the germs into the dog's bloodstream.
- _____ 8. The clownfish is immune to the sea anemone's poison. The clownfish can escape predators by hiding in its partner's tentacles. When a fish tries to catch the clownfish, it quickly finds the effort is futile.
- _____ 9. Ants follow out the thorns of the acacia bush to make their home. When a cow or other animal tries to eat the bush, the ants attack and sting the invader until it stops.
- _____ 10. The sea lamprey joins itself to the body of another fish. The lamprey then drills a hole through the fish's side and sucks out some of its blood. While the host fish is not killed, the hole in its side can often become infected.
- _____ 11. A cleaner wrasse picks and eats parasites from the skin, mouth, and gills of larger fish. On some reefs, fish have been observed gathering at "cleaning stations," waiting there for the wrasse's services.
- _____ 12. A bromeliad plant has short roots that secure it to the trunks and branches of trees. Its leaves form a small "pond" that fills with water, small animals, and organic debris. The bromeliad draws its nutrients from its pond.

