

Good Buddies: Symbiotic Relationships Answer Key for Class Activity

Barnacle/Whale

Barnacles create home sites by attaching themselves to whales.

This neither harms nor benefits the whales = (commensalism).

Honey Guide Bird/Badger

Honey guide birds alert and direct badgers to bee hives. The badgers then expose the hives and feed on the honey first. Then the honey guide birds eat.

(Mutualism)

Remora/Shark

Remoras attach themselves to a shark's body. They then travel with the shark and feed on the left over scraps from the shark's meals.

This neither harms nor benefits the shark = (commensalism).

Cowbird/Buffalo

As buffalos walk through grass, insects become active and are seen and eaten by cowbirds.

This neither harms nor benefits the buffalos = (commensalism).

Cuckoo/Warbler

A cuckoo may lay its eggs in a warbler's nest. The cuckoo's young will displace the warbler's young and will be raised by the warbler. *(parasitism)*

Wrasse Fish/ Black Sea Bass

Wrasse fish feed on the parasites found on the black sea bass's body.

Both species benefit = (mutualism).

Hermit crab/Snail shell

Hermit crabs live in shells made and then abandoned by snails.

This neither harms nor benefits the snails = (commensalism).

Yucca Plant/Yucca Moth

Yucca flowers are pollinated by yucca moths. The moths lay their eggs in the flowers where the larvae hatch and eat some of the developing seeds.

Both species benefit = (mutualism).

Ostrich/Gazelle

Ostriches and gazelles feed next to each other. They both watch for predators and alert each other to danger. Since the visual abilities of the two species are different, they each can identify threats the other animal would not as readily see.

Both species benefit = (mutualism)

Mistletoe/Spruce Tree

Mistletoe extracts water and nutrients from the spruce tree to the trees detriment.
(parasitism)

Bee/Maribou Stork

The stork uses its saw-like bill to cut up the dead animals it eats. As a result, the dead animal carcass is accessible to some bees for food and egg laying.
(commensalism)

Mouse/Flea

A flea feeds on a mouse's blood to the mouse's detriment.
(parasitism)

Oxpecker/Rhinoceros

Oxpeckers feed on the ticks found on a rhinoceros.
Both species benefit = (mutualism).

Silverfish/Army Ants

Silverfish live and hunt with army ants. They share the prey.
They neither help nor harm the army ants = (commensalism).

Deer/Tick

Ticks feed on deer blood to the deer's detriment.
(parasitism)