

Mutualism

Commensalism

Parasitism

+ / +

+ / -

+ / 0

A symbiotic relationship that benefits both organisms involved.

A symbiotic relationship that benefits one organism and the other is not helped or harmed.

A symbiotic relationship that benefits one organism and the other is harmed.

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 that the other animal may not be able to see.

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. The moths then fly and distribute the seeds all over.

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

Barnacles create home sites by attaching themselves to whales. The whales are not harmed.

Cowbirds stay around buffalo herds. As buffalos walk through the grass, insects become active. The insects are seen and eaten by the cowbirds.

Silverfish live and hunt with army ants. They share the killed prey.

Oxpeckers can often be seen standing on a rhino's back. The oxpeckers feed on ticks found on the rhino.

Wrasse fish feed on the parasites found on the body of a black sea bass.

Mistletoe inserts its roots into a spruce tree and steals water and nutrients from the spruce tree.

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

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 the remaining honey.

A tapeworm lives inside a 5th grader's intestines steals nutrients from the food he eats.

A bird builds his nest in a tree using sticks and materials found on the ground.

Orchids grow in tall trees in the tropical rainforest. The trees are not affected, but the orchids are able to receive enough sunlight to do photosynthesis.

Bacteria live in the intestines of a cow to help it break down cellulose. The bacteria are fed and the cow is assisted in breaking down cellulose.

Fleas and ticks survive by eating a Golden Retriever's blood.

<p>Head lice lives on a human scalp. The lice feed by biting the human.</p>	<p>Ants and the acacia tree live together in harmony. They both benefit from the relationship.</p>
<p>Lichen is formed from a close relationship of a fungus and an alga. Both the fungus and the alga are benefitted.</p>	<p>Bees receive nectar from flowers. In return, the bees assist in pollination as they move from flower to flower.</p>
<p>Ticks feed on deer blood to the deer's detriment.</p>	<p>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 come bees for food and for laying eggs.</p>