

Pond Relationship Clues

Read closely to identify how organisms affect one another.

6.12.B “describe and give examples of predatory, competitive, and symbiotic relationships between organisms, including mutualism, parasitism, and commensalism; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each sentence that gives an organism example. In the margin, write P for predatory, C for competitive, Mu for mutualism, Pa for parasitism, or Co for commensalism.

Life Around a Pond

- ① At the edge of a pond, a great blue heron stands still among reeds. When a fish swims close, the heron strikes and eats it. This is a predatory relationship: one organism captures and consumes another. Predators can affect where prey feed or hide. Nearby, dragonfly nymphs also hunt small aquatic animals. A relationship is called predatory because the hunter gains food while the prey is harmed and usually killed. The heron and fish are a clear pond example.
- ② Resources such as food, water, space, and sunlight can be limited. When organisms need the same limited resource, they compete. Along the pond shore, two groups of rabbits eat the same young grasses. If grass becomes scarce, each group has less food available. Competition may occur between members of one species or between different species. For example, a turtle and a duck might compete if both depend on the same insects. Neither competitor is trying to eat the other.
- ③ Some close relationships are symbiotic, meaning organisms of different species live closely together. In mutualism, both organisms benefit. A bee gets nectar from a flower, and the flower is pollinated as the bee moves pollen. In parasitism, one organism benefits while the host is harmed. A tick drinks a dog's blood. In commensalism, one benefits and the other is not helped or harmed. Barnacles ride on a whale, gaining movement to feeding areas, while the whale is usually unaffected.

2

ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1

What makes the relationship between the heron and the fish predatory?

2

Which organisms compete along the pond shore, and what limited resource do they need?

3

How is mutualism different from parasitism?

4

What symbiotic relationship do the barnacles and whale have? Explain what happens to each organism.

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Complete all five rows with a different real example for each relationship type. Name the organisms and explain what happens to each organism.

RELATIONSHIP	ORGANISMS	WHAT HAPPENS TO EACH ORGANISM?

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each sentence that gives an organism example. In the margin, write P for predatory, C for competitive, Mu for mutualism, Pa for parasitism, or Co for commensalism. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What makes the relationship between the heron and the fish predatory?	The heron captures and eats the fish. The heron gains food, and the fish is harmed and usually killed.
2	Which organisms compete along the pond shore, and what limited resource do they need?	Two groups of rabbits compete for the same young grasses, which are food.
3	How is mutualism different from parasitism?	In mutualism, both organisms benefit. In parasitism, one organism benefits while the host is harmed.
4	What symbiotic relationship do the barnacles and whale have? Explain what happens to each organism.	They have commensalism. Barnacles gain movement to feeding areas, while the whale is usually unaffected.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

RELATIONSHIP	ORGANISMS	WHAT HAPPENS TO EACH ORGANISM?
Predatory	owl and mouse	The owl gets food, and the mouse is killed.
Competitive	two oak seedlings	Both need light, water, and space, so each may get less.
Mutualism	acacia tree and ants	Ants get food and shelter, and ants protect the tree from some herbivores.
Parasitism	flea and cat	The flea gets blood, and the cat is harmed.
Commensalism	remora and shark	The remora gets transport and food scraps, and the shark is usually unaffected.

Accept accurate examples that match the effects for each relationship type. For competition, students should identify a shared limited resource rather than an organism eating another organism.