

Pond Life Links

Read closely to trace how pond organisms affect one another.

3.5.b “relationships exist among organisms in an ecosystem.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each sentence that tells how one pond organism helps, eats, or affects another organism. Number the underlined relationships 1, 2, 3, and so on.

Connections at a Pond

- ① At the edge of a pond, cattail plants grow in shallow water. Their roots hold mud in place, and their stems give dragonflies a place to rest. Tiny insects hide among the cattails. The insects eat parts of the plants. A green frog waits nearby and snaps up insects for food. These living things share one pond home.
- ② When the frog is hungry, it depends on insects. The insects depend on cattails for food and shelter. A heron may hunt frogs in the pond. If fewer insects live near the cattails, frogs may have less food. Then a heron may find fewer frogs to eat. One change can affect several organisms in this ecosystem.
- ③ Not every relationship is about eating. After a cattail leaf dies, fungi and bacteria break it into smaller parts. They use the dead leaf as food. Nutrients from the broken plant matter can return to the mud, where cattails use them to grow. The new cattails can again provide food and shelter for insects.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How are the frog and the insects connected?

2 What are two ways cattails help other organisms at the pond?

3 If there were fewer insects near the cattails, how could that affect the heron?

4 What do fungi and bacteria do with a dead cattail leaf, and how can this help cattails?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a forest, field, or garden ecosystem. Name three organisms. Write three sentences that explain two relationships among them and tell how a change to one organism could affect another.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each sentence that tells how one pond organism helps, eats, or affects another organism. Number the underlined relationships 1, 2, 3, and so on. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How are the frog and the insects connected?	The frog eats insects for food.
2	What are two ways cattails help other organisms at the pond?	Cattails give dragonflies a place to rest. They also provide insects with food and shelter.
3	If there were fewer insects near the cattails, how could that affect the heron?	Frogs might have less food, so there could be fewer frogs for the heron to eat.
4	What do fungi and bacteria do with a dead cattail leaf, and how can this help cattails?	They break the dead leaf into smaller parts and use it as food. Nutrients return to the mud, where cattails can use them to grow.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In a garden, bees drink nectar from flowers, and flowers are pollinated when bees move pollen. A lizard eats insects that visit the flowers. If there are fewer flowers, bees may have less nectar, and lizards may have fewer insects to eat.

Accept accurate relationships such as eating, shelter, pollination, or breaking down dead matter. For the open response, accept any realistic ecosystem example with three organisms, two relationships, and a logical effect of a change.