

Symbiosis Webquest



Introduction: As our study of ecology continues, we now need to focus on specific relationships that populations of organisms have with each other. We often think of only the negative ways in which species interact, when in reality there are hundreds of examples in nature that show how dependent certain organisms are on others.

Directions: Using your text and the following websites, address the questions below.

<http://users.rcn.com/jkimball.ma.ultranet/BiologyPages/S/Symbiosis.html>

1. Define the three types of symbiotic relationships explained here and provide an example of each.
2. Read the story on the Australian rabbits and explain how the remaining rabbits changed after the myxoma virus eliminated almost its entire population.
3. Read over the section of the evolution of symbiotic relationships. How do scientists think symbiotic relationships evolved? What two organisms were involved in the first ever studied primitive type of symbiotic relationship?
4. What metaphor is used to describe the commensalism relationship?
5. Explain the commensalistic relationship of the Remora fish .
6. The man-of-war fishes and the deadly jellyfish is an example of what type of symbiotic relationship?
7. Give two examples of mutualism (or symbiosis) and provide the benefits for each organism.

8. What is an ectoparasite? Give an example of two organisms that are involved in this type of parasitic relationship.

<http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/course/ent591k/symbiosis.html>

10. Click on "Nectar Guides" under "Pollination symbiosis". What are the benefits to the organisms involved??

11. Click on "Bottle Gentian" under "Pollination symbiosis". Why is this such a great mutualistic association?

<http://www.racerocks.com/racerock/eco/bioassociate/bioassociate.htm>

12. Pick three of the twelve pictures and research those organisms to determine what symbiotic relationship exists between them.

a.

b.

c.