

Skills Worksheet

Active Reading

Section: Interactions in Communities

Read the passage below. Then answer the questions that follow.

In **symbiosis**, two or more species live together in a close, long-term association. Symbiotic relationships can be beneficial to both organisms or may benefit one organism and leave the other harmed or unaffected. **Parasitism** is one type of symbiotic relationship that is detrimental to, or harms, the host organism. In this relationship, one organism feeds on and usually lives in another, typically larger, organism. **Mutualism** is a symbiotic relationship in which both participating species benefit. A well-known instance of mutualism involves ants and aphids. The ants feed on fluid the aphids secrete, and in exchange, the ants protect the aphids from insect predators. A third form of symbiosis is **commensalism**, a symbiotic relationship in which one species benefits and the other is neither harmed nor helped. Among the best-known examples of commensalism are the feeding and protection relationships between certain small tropical fishes and sea anemones, marine animals that have stinging tentacles.

SKILL: READING EFFECTIVELY

Write **P** if the phrase describes parasitism, **M** if it describes mutualism, or **C** if it describes commensalism. For each phrase, more than one choice may be correct.

- _____ 1. exists between certain tropical fish and sea anemones
- _____ 2. type of symbiotic relationship
- _____ 3. the host organism is harmed
- _____ 4. one species is neither harmed nor helped
- _____ 5. at least one species benefits

In the space provided, write the letter of the phrase that best completes the statement.

- _____ 6. Mutualism is a symbiotic relationship in which
 - a. both species are harmed.
 - b. neither species benefits.
 - c. one species is harmed.
 - d. both species benefit.