

Name _____

Angelfish and Their Underwater Friendships

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. (Example response) The mutualistic relationship between angelfish and larger fish is important because it keeps larger fish healthy by removing harmful parasites. This balance helps maintain a healthy ecosystem in the ocean.
2. (Example response) If angelfish stopped eating algae, the algae might overgrow and harm the coral reefs. This would affect all the animals that depend on the reef for food and shelter.
3. (Example response) Studying species interactions, like angelfish, helps scientists understand how ecosystems work and how different species depend on each other. This knowledge is important for protecting the environment.
4. (Example response) I would observe how angelfish interact with other fish, look for signs of mutualism (like cleaning behavior), and watch how their movements affect smaller animals, such as stirring up food for shrimp.

