

Name _____

The Bass Fish: A Key Player in the Ecosystem

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Example: Predators like bass keep populations of smaller animals in check, which prevents overpopulation and helps maintain balance in the ecosystem.
2. Example: Without bass, smaller fish might overpopulate, eating too many plants and reducing oxygen in the water, which could harm other animals.
3. Example: Humans can help by reducing pollution, protecting habitats, and following fishing rules to prevent overfishing.
4. Example: I would explain that bass are both hunters and prey, keeping populations balanced and even helping to improve water quality by stirring up oxygen as they swim.