

Name _____

The Surprising Benefits of Parasites

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Parasitic wasps help control populations of pest insects, reducing the need for harmful pesticides and protecting crops.
2. Another example is the relationship between certain parasites and their hosts in coral reef ecosystems, where isopods help keep fish healthy by eating parasites.
3. Recognizing the benefits of parasites helps us understand the complexity of ecosystems and may offer insights into potential benefits for human health.
4. Parasites, such as isopods, help maintain the balance of coral reef ecosystems by providing benefits to their host organisms, such as fish.

