

Name _____

Caterpillars and Their Curious Connections

Short Answer Key

1. Mutualism is when two species benefit from a relationship. Ants get honeydew from caterpillars, and caterpillars get protection from ants.
2. Parasitic wasps harm caterpillars by laying eggs on or inside them. The larvae feed on the caterpillar, which can kill it.
3. Commensalism is when one species benefits while the other is unharmed. Mites use caterpillars to travel to new plants without using their own energy.
4. Caterpillars eat old leaves, which helps plants make room for new, healthy growth.
5. Caterpillars produce honeydew for ants, and in return, ants protect them from predators.

