

Name _____

The Catfish's Role in the Ecosystem

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Catfish are called nature's cleanup crew because they eat dead plants, animals, and other waste, keeping the water clean and healthy.
2. Without catfish, waste and dead materials might build up in the water, making it unhealthy for other animals. Insects might overpopulate, causing further imbalance.
3. Catfish benefit the environment by cleaning the water and supporting the food chain. They also benefit humans by providing a source of protein-rich food.
4. A scientist studying catfish might focus on how they affect water quality or how their diet impacts insect populations, to better understand their role in maintaining a balanced ecosystem.

