

Name _____

Do Catfish Form Relationships with Other Species?

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Mutualism is important because it helps catfish stay healthy while benefiting other species like cleaner fish, creating a balanced and supportive ecosystem.
2. Parasites can weaken catfish over time, making them less likely to survive and reproduce, which could impact the food chain and overall ecosystem health.
3. If catfish didn't interact with other species, their environment might become unbalanced. For example, parasites could overpopulate, or certain species might lose a food source.
4. Observing a mutualistic relationship, you might see a cleaner fish eating algae or parasites off a catfish. This is helpful because it keeps the catfish healthy and provides the cleaner fish with food.