

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Chimpanzee Relationships with Other Species



Chimpanzees are highly social animals, not just within their groups but also in how they interact with other species. While they mostly form relationships with their own kind, there are some interesting interactions between chimpanzees and other animals in the wild.

One example of a symbiotic relationship is mutualism. Mutualism is when both species benefit from the interaction. Chimpanzees often groom one another to remove parasites, but they have also been seen grooming monkeys. The chimpanzees benefit by reducing parasites, while the monkeys enjoy a cleaner coat.

Another relationship is commensalism, where one species benefits and the other is not harmed. Chimpanzees often feed on fruits, leaving behind seeds that help plants grow in new areas. The plants benefit from seed dispersal, while the chimpanzees gain food without harming the plants.

Parasitism, on the other hand, involves one species benefiting while the other is harmed. Chimpanzees sometimes suffer from parasites like ticks and lice that feed on their blood. This relationship is harmful to the chimpanzee but helpful to the parasite.

Chimpanzees also interact with birds. Some birds follow chimpanzees, hoping to eat the insects stirred up as the primates move through the forest. Though the birds benefit from this, the chimpanzees are unaffected.

These different types of relationships show how chimpanzees fit into their ecosystems. They play an important role by spreading seeds, interacting with other species, and sometimes even helping others stay clean and healthy.