

Name _____

Cockroaches and Their Surprising Relationships

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Mutualism helps both cockroaches and bacteria survive because the bacteria get a safe place to live, and the cockroaches can digest hard-to-break-down food.
2. Humans create environments for cockroaches to thrive by leaving behind food waste, crumbs, or damp, warm spaces where cockroaches can live.
3. Without bacteria in their digestive system, cockroaches might not be able to eat or process tough materials like wood, making it harder for them to find food.
4. Studying cockroaches shows how even small creatures have important roles in nature and how different species depend on each other to survive.

