

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Crickets and Their Relationships in Nature

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Mutualism is important because both crickets and fungi benefit.  
The fungus gets its spores spread, and the cricket gets easier access to food.
2. As a cricket with mites, I might feel annoyed or uncomfortable, but since the mites don't harm me, I wouldn't worry too much.
3. Parasitic relationships weaken crickets and can even kill them, making it harder for them to survive and reproduce.
4. Understanding how crickets interact with other species helps us learn about the balance of nature and how different creatures depend on each other in the ecosystem.

