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Guppies and Their Relationships with Other Species



Guppies are small, colorful fish that live in freshwater habitats, and while they are well known for their bright colors and playful behavior, they also interact with other species in interesting ways. These interactions sometimes form symbiotic relationships—connections between two different species that live closely together.

One example of a symbiotic relationship involving guppies is mutualism, where both species benefit. Guppies often eat small insect larvae, including mosquito larvae.

This benefits the guppies because they get food, and it benefits humans and other animals by reducing the mosquito population, which helps prevent the spread of diseases like malaria.

Another kind of relationship guppies might experience is parasitism, where one species benefits, but the other is harmed. Guppies can sometimes become hosts to parasites, like tiny worms or bacteria, which live on or inside their bodies. These parasites can make guppies sick, slowing them down and making them more vulnerable to predators.

Guppies also participate in commensalism, a type of relationship where one species benefits while the other is not affected. For example, guppies often swim near larger fish that don't see them as prey. This allows guppies to find safety from predators since most predators avoid hunting near larger fish. The larger fish are not harmed or helped by the guppies' presence, making this a good example of commensalism.

Although guppies interact with other species, they mostly rely on their ability to live in groups, or schools, with other guppies to stay safe. Living in schools helps guppies avoid predators and makes finding food easier. These group behaviors show how guppies work together within their own species while also benefiting from their relationships with other species in their environment.

In the wild, guppies' relationships with other species help them survive and thrive. From eating pests to using larger fish for protection, guppies show how even tiny creatures can play an important role in their ecosystems through these unique connections.