

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Hippopotamus: An Ecosystem Helper

### Short Answer Key

1. Hippos help prevent plant overgrowth by creating pathways in the water.
2. Nutrient recycling is when nutrients return to the environment. Hippos contribute by releasing waste in water, which helps plants grow.
3. Hippos create pathways in the water, making it easier for other animals to find water.
4. Hippos eat grass, mostly at night when it is cooler.
5. Protecting hippos is important because they keep their habitats healthy and support biodiversity.

