

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Hippopotamus: An Ecosystem Helper

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Hippos stay in the water to keep cool and protect their skin from the sun.
2. If hippos disappeared, plants might overgrow, and water quality could decline, affecting many animals.
3. Hippos help shape riverbanks and provide nutrients to water plants, affecting both land and water ecosystems.
4. People can protect hippos by stopping habitat destruction and preventing illegal hunting.

