

Name _____

Friends or Foes? Lionfish and Their Relationships with Other Species

Short Answer Key

1. Mutualism means both species benefit. Lionfish participate in mutualism when cleaner shrimp eat parasites off their bodies, helping both the lionfish and the shrimp.
2. Parasitism is harmful because parasites feed on the lionfish's body or blood, making them weaker or sick.
3. An example of commensalism is small fish hiding near lionfish to avoid predators while the lionfish remains unaffected.
4. Lionfish harm coral reefs in the Atlantic by eating too many small fish, disrupting the ecosystem's balance.
5. Lionfish don't have natural predators in the Atlantic because they are an invasive species, not originally from these waters.

