

Name _____

Friends or Foes? Lionfish and Their Relationships with Other Species

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Cleaner shrimp cleaning a lionfish is beneficial because the lionfish stays healthy, and the shrimp gets food, creating a win-win situation.
2. Lionfish's invasive nature harms coral reefs by reducing small fish populations, which disrupts the food chain and damages the ecosystem.
3. Answers will vary. An ideal response could argue that lionfish's relationships are mostly negative because they harm coral reefs, despite rare mutualistic or commensal interactions.
4. People could help by organizing lionfish removal programs, promoting lionfish as a food source, or protecting the natural predators of lionfish in areas where they are invasive.

