

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Understanding Parasites: Nature's Intruders

### Short Answer Key

1. Parasites rely entirely on hosts for sustenance.
2. Host specificity ensures that parasites can successfully establish themselves and complete their life cycles within their preferred host environments.
3. Parasites have specialized adaptations for parasitism, allowing them to exploit their hosts for survival and reproduction.
4. Parasites must acquire and metabolize nutrients, reproduce, and respond to environmental stimuli to survive, similar to other living organisms.
5. Parasites benefit from their hosts by obtaining nutrients and resources necessary for survival and reproduction, often causing harm or inconvenience to the host in the process.

