

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Exploring Nutritional Symbiosis: Nature's Teamwork

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Plants form symbiotic relationships with mycorrhizal fungi to gain access to essential nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen, which are absorbed from the soil by the fungi.
2. A disruption in the balance of gut bacteria can lead to digestive problems, vitamin deficiencies, and a weakened immune system, affecting overall health.
3. Understanding nutritional symbiosis can help identify key relationships within ecosystems, guiding conservation efforts to protect biodiversity and ecosystem health.
4. Harnessing symbiotic relationships in medicine could lead to the development of new treatments for diseases, improved digestion, and enhanced immune function.

