

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Does a Raccoon Form Relationships with Other Species?

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Mutualism is important because it helps maintain balance in ecosystems by allowing species to benefit from each other.
2. Humans could reduce negative interactions by securing garbage bins, avoiding feeding raccoons, and preserving their natural habitats.
3. Parasites weaken raccoons and make it harder for them to find food or escape predators, affecting their survival.
4. Answers will vary. Example: "I would like to see raccoons and birds in a mutualistic relationship because it shows how two very different animals can benefit each other."

