

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The World of Parasites: Nature's Sneaky Intruders

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Preventing parasitic infections is important because parasites can cause diseases, discomfort, and even death in their hosts. By preventing infections, we can protect human and animal health.
2. Some parasites can manipulate their host's behavior to increase their chances of survival and reproduction. For example, a parasite might alter its host's behavior to make it more likely to be eaten by a predator, which allows the parasite to complete its life cycle.
3. Humans can protect themselves from arthropod parasites by using insect repellent, wearing protective clothing, and avoiding areas with high insect populations, especially during peak activity times.
4. Parasites play a crucial role in ecosystems by regulating host populations, influencing community structure, and contributing to nutrient cycling. They are an integral part of the intricate web of life in nature.

