

Name _____

Harmony in Nature: Understanding Species Interactions in Ecosystems

Short Answer Key

1. Competition in an ecosystem occurs when two or more species vie for the same limited resources, such as food, water, or living space.
2. An example of predation in nature is a lion hunting and consuming a zebra on the African savanna.
3. Mutualism is a type of interaction where both species benefit from their association. For example, flowering plants provide nectar and pollen to pollinators like bees and butterflies, while the pollinators help plants reproduce by transferring pollen between flowers.
4. Species interactions contribute to the stability of ecosystems by regulating population sizes, controlling the spread of species, and ensuring the efficient use of resources.
5. Mutualism involves both species benefiting from their interaction, whereas parasitism involves one organism benefiting at the expense of the other.

