

Name _____

Termites and Their Relationships with Other Species

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The microorganisms in termites' guts help digest cellulose, while termites provide the microorganisms with food and a safe place to live, benefiting both species.
2. Nutrient recyclers like termites are crucial for healthy ecosystems because they return essential nutrients to the soil, supporting plant growth and the entire food chain.
3. If termites disappeared, predators like birds would lose a major food source, potentially threatening their survival.
4. In mutualism, both species benefit, such as termites and their gut microorganisms. In parasitism, only one species benefits while the other is harmed, such as fungi feeding on termites.

