

Name _____

Unwelcome Guests: Understanding Parasites

Short Answer Key

1. Tick.
2. Endoparasites are parasites that live inside the host's body, typically in organs such as the intestines, liver, or bloodstream.
3. The life cycle of the malaria parasite begins when an infected mosquito bites a human, injecting parasites into the bloodstream. The parasites then travel to the liver, where they multiply and eventually re-enter the bloodstream, causing symptoms of malaria. When another mosquito bites the infected human, it ingests the parasites, completing the cycle.
4. Parasites benefit from their hosts by obtaining nutrients, shelter, and sometimes protection from predators without providing any benefit in return. They may also reproduce and spread to other hosts through their interactions with the host organism.
5. Some parasites help regulate host populations by controlling their numbers, thereby influencing the balance of ecosystems. Additionally, parasites may serve as food sources for predators, contributing to the overall biodiversity of ecosystems.

