

Name _____

Whales and Their Relationships with Other Species

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Barnacles benefit from attaching to whales without harming them, while parasites like whale lice cause irritation and harm to whales.
2. Whales contribute nutrients to the ocean ecosystem, supporting plankton, which is the foundation of the marine food web.
3. Seabirds benefit from whales pushing fish to the surface, and whales are unaffected, showing mutualism.
4. Whales' unique size, behavior, and interactions with species like barnacles, seabirds, and plankton make their relationships remarkable and essential for ecosystem balance.

