

Name _____

Zebras and Their Relationships with Other Animals

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The relationship between zebras and oxpeckers is mutualism because the bird gets food, and the zebra gets rid of pests and a warning system.
2. Zebras indirectly help other animals by grazing on tall grass, which exposes shorter grass that smaller animals prefer.
3. Parasites like ticks harm zebras by causing discomfort and spreading diseases. Zebras manage these problems by dust bathing, swatting insects, and relying on birds like oxpeckers.
4. Understanding zebras' relationships with other species shows how all animals are interconnected and how these interactions help maintain the balance of ecosystems.

