

Commensalism Practice Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

👉 In each scenario below, identify the two organisms and explain who benefits and who is unaffected. Remember:

- Commensalism = one benefits (+), the other is neither helped nor harmed (0)
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1. Barnacles attach to a whale's skin, gaining a free ride to plankton-rich waters. The whale doesn't notice.

- Organisms: _____ and _____
- Who benefits? _____
- Who is unaffected? _____

2. Remora fish hitch rides on sharks, feeding on scraps while the shark goes about its business.

- Organisms: _____ and _____
- Who benefits? _____
- Who is unaffected? _____

3. Birds build nests in the branches of tall trees.

- Organisms: _____ and _____
- Who benefits? _____
- Who is unaffected? _____

4. Egrets follow cattle, eating insects stirred up as the cattle walk. The cattle are not harmed or helped.

- Organisms: _____ and _____
- Who benefits? _____
- Who is unaffected? _____

5. Orchids grow on tree branches to reach sunlight, while the tree is not harmed.

- Organisms: _____ and _____
- Who benefits? _____
- Who is unaffected? _____

⭐ Challenge Question

Can you think of another example of commensalism? Write the two organisms and explain who benefits and who is unaffected.
