Mutualism

Commensalism

Parasitism

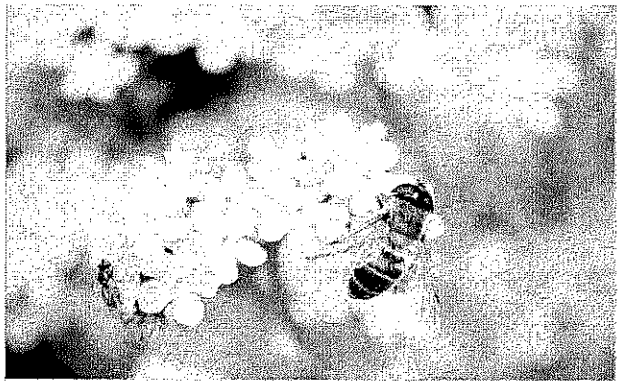
A relationship between two organisms of different species in which each individual benefits from the activity of the other.

A relationship between two organisms of different species in which one individual benefits and the other is unaffected.

A relationship between two organisms of different species in which one organism causes harm to another by living in or on it.

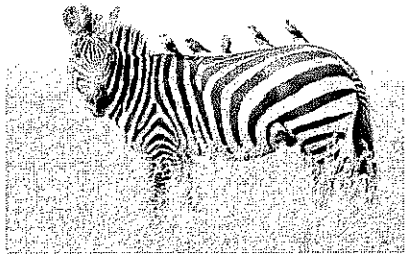
Bee and Flower

Bees pollinate flowers by traveling from plant to plant while collecting nectar they need to make honey.



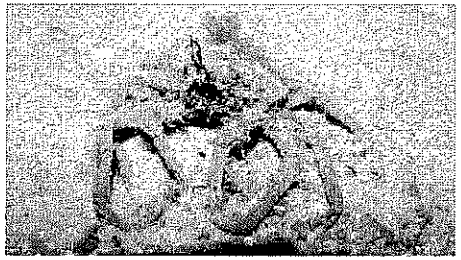
Oxpecker and Zebra

An oxpecker eats ticks and other parasites that live on zebras. This provides food for the oxpecker and pest control for the zebra.



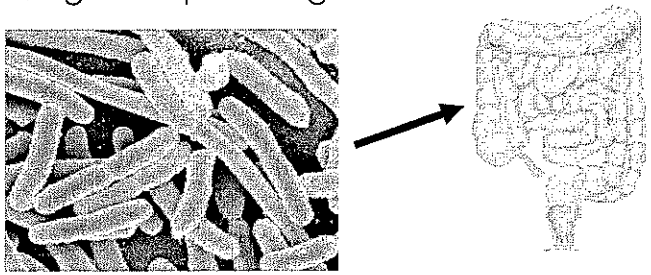
Spider Crab and Algae

A spider crabs lives in shallow areas of the ocean and algae lives on its back which helps the crab blend in. The spider crab gets camouflage and the algae gets a place to live.



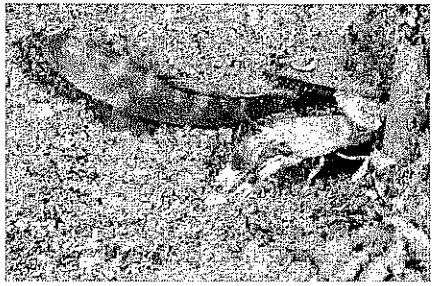
Bacteria and Human

Certain types of bacteria live in human intestines. These bacteria feed on food that is not completely digested. The bacteria gain a food source and humans gain help with digestion.



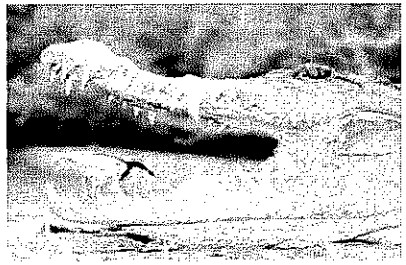
Pistol Shrimp and Goby Fish

Pistol shrimp and goby fish share a burrow in the sand for shelter and avoid predators by remaining in close contact with one another.



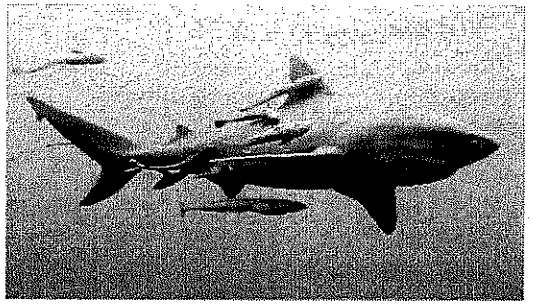
Crocodile and Plover Bird

The plover bird will climb into a crocodile's mouth and eat tiny scraps of food stuck in its teeth. This keeps the crocodile's teeth clean and mouth free from infections while providing a meal for the plover bird.



Whale Shark and Remora

A remora will attach to a larger organism such as a shark. As the larger organism eats, the remora will feed on any scraps that float by.

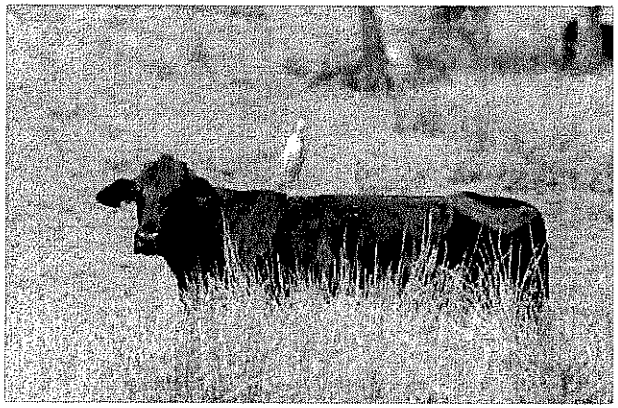


Atlantic Puffin and Rabbit

An Atlantic puffin will use a rabbit's burrow for nesting. The rabbit is unaffected by this relationship.

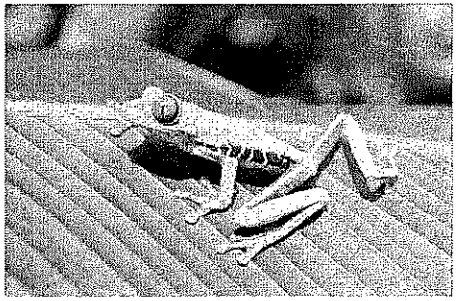
Egret and Cow

Egrets live near cattle. As cattle graze in open fields they stir up insects. The egrets feed on the insects.



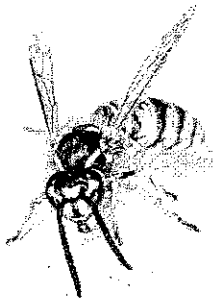
Tree Frog and Plant

Tree frogs will use large plants for shelter and protection from rain. The tree frogs are able to survive and the plants are not harmed.



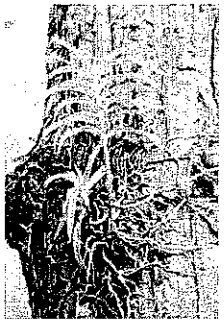
Mite and Wasp

A mite will attach to a wasp in order to gain a faster mode of transportation. The wasp is not helped or harmed in this relationship.



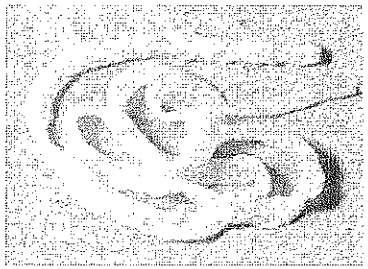
Orchid and Tree

An orchid will latch onto a tree in order to grow in a more beneficial environment. The orchid gains its resources from the air and sunlight. This relationship allows an orchid to grow high into the air so it will not be trampled on the ground.



Tapeworm and Cat

A tapeworm will attach to the intestinal wall of a cat (or other host). The tapeworm will absorb nutrients that have been partially digested. The tapeworm is able to survive and the cat (or other host) is harmed.



Flea and Dog

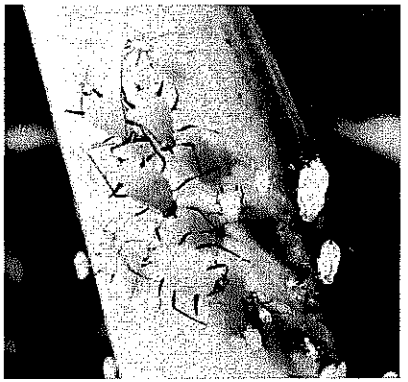
A flea lives on the skin of a dog and feeds on its blood. This relationship causes irritation to the dog's skin.

Lice and Monkey

Lice live on the skin (under the hair) of certain organisms such as monkeys. Lice survive by feeding on the blood of the monkeys. The lice benefit, but the monkeys are harmed by this relationship.

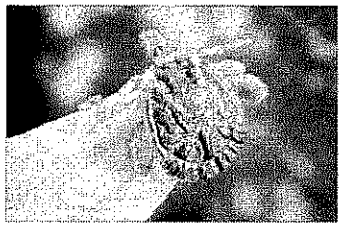
Aphid and Plant

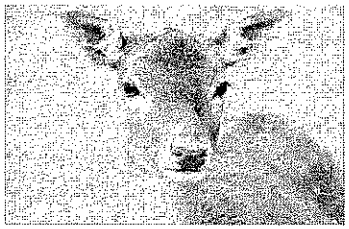
An aphid is a small insect that will suck out fluids from plant stems, leaves, or other parts. The aphid gains a meal, but the plant is harmed in the process.



Tick and Deer

A tick will attach to a deer by burrowing its head into the deer's skin. The tick will feed on the blood of the deer. This relationship causes irritation, redness of the skin, and harm to the deer.





Mistletoe and Shrub

Mistletoe grows on shrubs by attaching to the shrubs with root-like structures. The mistletoe will steal water and nutrients from the shrubs. This relationship has a negative impact on shrubs.