

Chapter 1 Interdependence

FOCUS

The underlined sentence states an important idea about how organisms depend on each other. As you read, find out about two types of interdependence between organisms.

Symbiosis

Some organisms living together in an ecosystem develop special types of relationships.

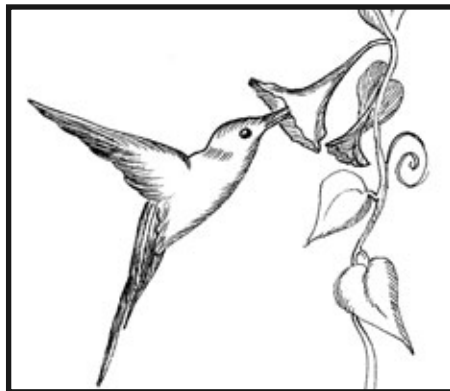
Symbiosis is a word that describes this interdependence. Some species of plants and animals have become so dependent on each other that one could not survive without the other. There are three basic types of symbiotic relationships.

Mutualism

A relationship between organisms in which both benefit is called **mutualism**. The relationship between bees and flowering plants is a good example. Bees collect nectar and pollen from the flowers and use it as food. In the process, they pollinate the flowers. This lets the plants reproduce.

Another example is that of clownfish and sea anemone. Clownfish are small colorful fish that are often found among the tentacles of the sea anemone. These tentacles contain poisonous stingers, but the clownfish produces a shield of mucus around its body. The sea anemone provides a home for the clownfish. In return, the clownfish fends off butterfly fish, which prey on the anemone.

One mutual relationship many people experience is that between a dog and its owner. People may provide food and shelter for dogs in exchange for protection and companionship.



The hummingbird and the morning glory, shown in the picture above, have a mutually beneficial relationship.

ACTIVE READER

1 Extend How would the disappearance of bees affect flowering plants?
