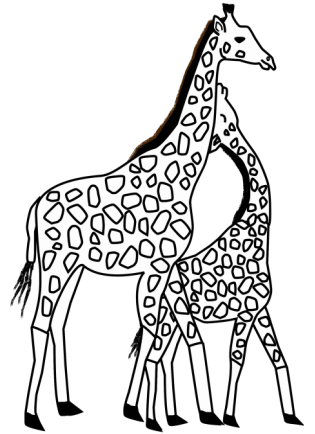


Animal Groups and Relationships

There are millions of animals in the world. They need food and shelter as well as many other things. But the world can be a dangerous place, so animals form relationships to survive. Animals might compete for a resource (fight against each other) or cooperate to help each other get the resources they need (work together). Scientists have many different names for the ways animals interact with each other, and we're going to take a look at a few of them.

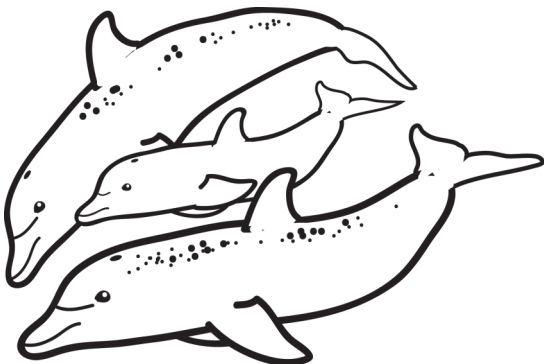
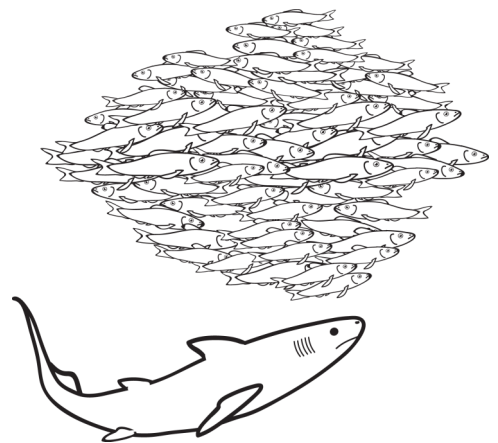


We'll start with **cooperation**. In the animal kingdom, cooperation isn't just working together, like a dog and a cat might work together if they live in the same home. In science, cooperation is two or more animals of the same species working together. There are lots of reasons animals of one species might work together.



One big reason is safety. When there are more animals together, some can watch out for danger while the others eat. Animals like meerkats live in groups called colonies. They assign the job of lookout to some members, and when the lookout spots danger, it calls out and warns the others.

Many types of fish eat in shoals. A shoal is simply a group of fish. When one senses danger, it moves quickly, sending vibrations through the water. The vibrations actually travel faster than the fish can, so all the fish are alerted very quickly.



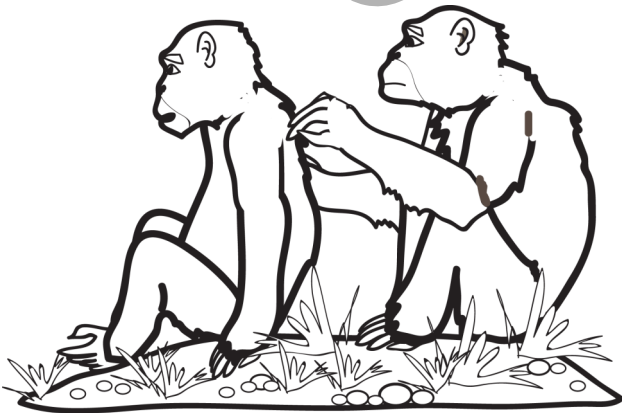
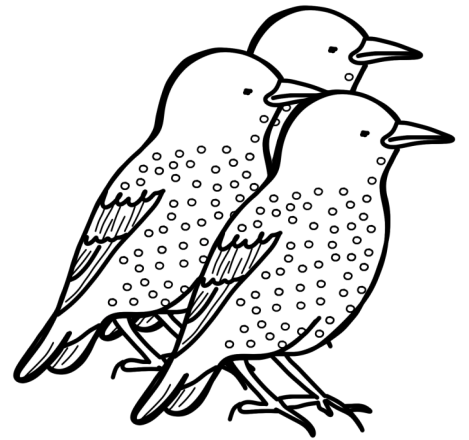
Dolphins swim in pods of seventeen or eighteen animals to help keep each other safe.

Sea otters sleep in the water in groups called rafts. They hold hands (actually, paws!) so they water doesn't pull them apart while they sleep. They don't want to wake up as prey for a killer whale!



Another way animals in a group help keep each other safe is by confusion. Zebras are famous for this. Their black and white stripes swirl as they move, so trying to keep an eye on just one zebra might make you dizzy. But trying to watch an entire herd of zebras can be nearly impossible!

Starlings are birds that travel in huge flocks called murmurations. They seem to move through the air as one, folding and changing directions like they were a single bird, even though a murmuration could have hundreds or even thousands of birds in it!



Sticking together not only helps individual animals stay safe, it can help them protect their territory. Chimpanzees work together in big groups called communities. They help each other in many ways, and when other chimpanzees challenge their territory, they fight together, too.

Terminology

Using what you learned, define these words in the best way you can. Use the back of the page if you need more room.

Cooperation: _____

Migrate: _____

Symbiosis: _____

Mutualism: _____

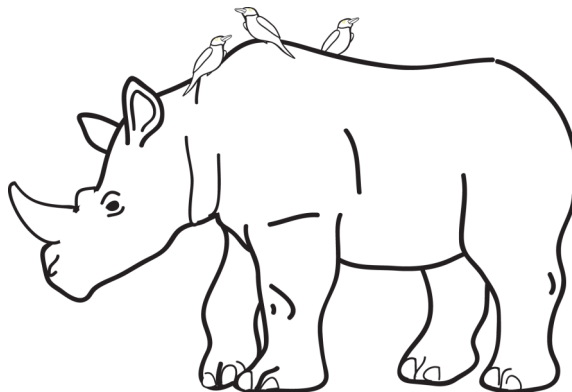
Commensalism: _____

Parasite: _____

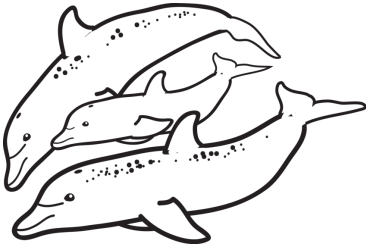
Ectoparasite: _____

Endoparasite: _____

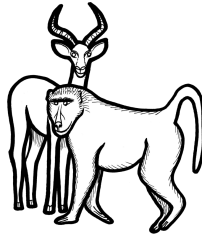
Brood parasite: _____



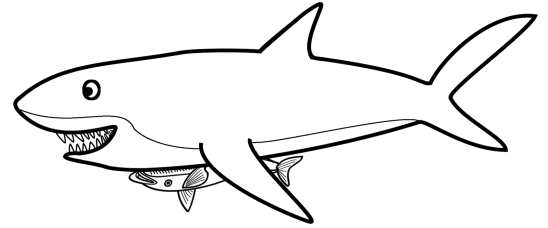
Which of the following is an example of mutualism? Draw a circle around it.



Pod of dolphins



Impala and baboon

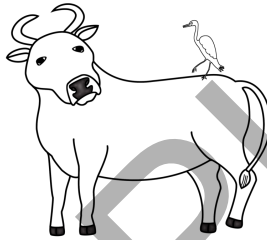


Shark and remora

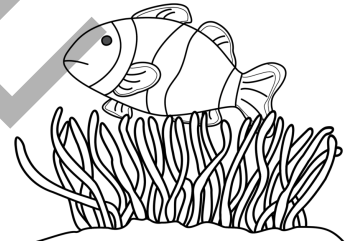
Which of the following is an example of commensalism? Draw a circle around it.



Cowbirds and cuckoos



Cattle egrets and cattle



Clownfish and sea anemone

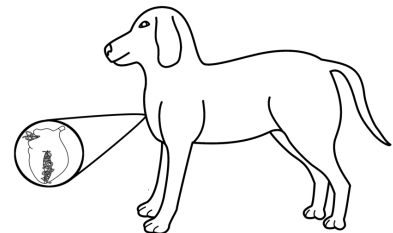
Which of the following is not an ectoparasite? Draw an X through it.



Flea



Tick



Heartworm

What are three reasons animals cooperate?

Animal Groups Answer Key

Match the following names for groups of animals with the type of animal we read about that each describes.

