Name: _____ Date: _____

The Shrimp and the Goby Who Share a Burrow

Circle group

On sandy parts of the sea floor, you can find a strange team. A small fish called a goby shares a burrow with a shrimp. Each one needs the other.

The shrimp is the builder. It digs a tunnel in the sand with its claws. It carries sand out of the entrance. It spends much of the day fixing the walls. But the shrimp cannot see well. When it leaves the burrow, it cannot see danger coming.

The goby helps with that. The fish has sharp eyes. It stays near the entrance and keeps watch. When the shrimp goes out to work, it keeps one long feeler touching the goby. If the goby sees a threat, it flicks its tail. The shrimp feels it right away. Then both of them dash into the burrow.

Each one gets something good. The shrimp gets a warning and can work with less risk. The goby gets a hiding place with no digging. It can hide there when a hungry fish swims by. Scientists use the word mutualism for this. It means both species benefit. The shrimp and the goby could hardly do as well alone.

Questions

1. Which animal digs the burrow?

_____

_____

2. What is the shrimp's weakness?

_____

_____

3. How does the goby warn the shrimp?

_____

_____

4. What does the goby get from the team?

_____

_____

5. Why does the shrimp keep a feeler on the goby?

_____

_____

6. Why is this an example of mutualism?

_____

_____

Words to know

burrow: a hole or tunnel an animal digs to live in
threat: something that could cause harm
mutualism: a partnership in which both sides benefit

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Shrimp and the Goby Who Share a Burrow

Triangle group

On sandy parts of the sea floor, one of nature's most unusual partnerships can be found. A small fish called a goby shares a burrow with a shrimp, and each animal depends on the other.

The shrimp is the builder. It uses its claws to dig a tunnel in the sand and carry loose material out of the entrance, and it spends much of the day repairing the walls. But the shrimp has very poor eyesight. Whenever it leaves the safety of its burrow, it is nearly blind to approaching danger.

The goby supplies what the shrimp lacks. The fish has sharp eyes and stays near the entrance, acting as a lookout. When the shrimp ventures out to work, it keeps one of its long antennae touching the goby. If the goby spots a threat, it flicks its tail. The shrimp feels the signal at once, and both animals dash into the burrow together.

Each partner gets something valuable in return. The shrimp receives early warning and can work in the open with much less risk. The goby gets a ready-made hiding place without any digging, and it can retreat there whenever a hungry fish swims by. Biologists use the word mutualism for a relationship in which both species benefit. The shrimp and the goby are a clear example, because they could hardly manage as well alone.

Questions

1. Which animal digs the burrow?

_____

_____

2. What is the shrimp's weakness?

_____

_____

3. How does the goby warn the shrimp of danger?

_____

_____

4. What does the goby get from the partnership?

_____

_____

5. Why does the shrimp keep an antenna touching the goby?

_____

_____

6. Why is this partnership an example of mutualism?

_____

_____

Words to know

burrow: a hole or tunnel an animal digs to live in
lookout: someone who watches carefully for danger
antennae: the long, thin feelers on the head of some animals
threat: something that could cause harm
mutualism: a partnership in which both sides benefit

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Shrimp and the Goby Who Share a Burrow

Square group

On the sandy stretches of the sea floor, one of nature's most unusual partnerships can be observed. A small fish known as a goby shares a burrow with a shrimp, and each of the two animals depends heavily on the other.

The shrimp serves as the builder. Using its claws, it excavates a tunnel in the sand and hauls loose material out through the entrance, and it devotes much of its day to repairing the walls. Unfortunately, the shrimp has extremely poor eyesight, so whenever it ventures beyond the safety of its burrow, it is almost blind to approaching danger.

The goby provides precisely what the shrimp lacks. The fish possesses sharp eyes and remains near the entrance, where it acts as a lookout. When the shrimp goes out to work, it keeps one of its long antennae in contact with the goby. If the goby notices a threat, it flicks its tail, the shrimp feels the signal instantly, and the two animals dash into the burrow together.

Each partner receives something valuable in return. The shrimp gains early warning and is able to work in the open with far less risk, while the goby obtains a ready-made refuge without having to dig, and it can retreat there whenever a hungry fish swims past. Biologists use the term mutualism for a relationship in which both species benefit, and the shrimp and the goby are a clear example, since they could scarcely manage as well alone.

Questions

1. Which of the two animals digs the burrow?

_____

_____

2. What is the shrimp's main weakness?

_____

_____

3. How does the goby warn the shrimp about danger?

_____

_____

4. What does the goby gain from the partnership?

_____

_____

5. Why does the shrimp keep an antenna in contact with the goby?

_____

_____

6. Why is this relationship a clear example of mutualism?

_____

_____

Words to know

burrow: a hole or tunnel an animal digs to live in
lookout: someone who watches carefully for danger
antennae: the long, thin feelers on the head of some animals
threat: something that could cause harm
mutualism: a partnership in which both sides benefit

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: The Shrimp and the Goby Who Share a Burrow

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: The Shrimp and the Goby Who Share a Burrow

Easier · 192 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2

1. The shrimp.
2. It cannot see well.
3. It flicks its tail, and the shrimp feels it with its feeler.
4. A hiding place with no digging.
5. It cannot see well, so it uses touch to feel the warning.
6. Both animals benefit, and each does a job the other cannot do well.

Triangle: The Shrimp and the Goby Who Share a Burrow

This passage · 228 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.5

1. The shrimp.
2. It has very poor eyesight.
3. It flicks its tail, and the shrimp feels it through its antenna.
4. A ready-made hiding place without any digging.
5. It cannot see well, so touch lets it feel the warning signal.
6. Both animals benefit, and each does a job the other cannot do well.

Square: The Shrimp and the Goby Who Share a Burrow

Harder · 246 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 9.8

1. The shrimp.
2. It has extremely poor eyesight.
3. It flicks its tail, and the shrimp feels the signal through its antenna.
4. A ready-made refuge that it did not have to dig.
5. Since it cannot see well, it relies on touch to feel the goby's warning.
6. Both species benefit, and each performs a task the other could not manage well alone.