

Symbiosis

Sometimes when organisms of different species live in the same ecosystem they live more closely than one would think. Organisms of different species that live together for an extended period of time are said to be in a symbiotic relationship.

Symbiosis An interaction between two organisms of different species living in close proximity that lasts over time.

Types of Symbiosis

Not all symbiotic relationships are the same. There are three distinct types:

Parasitism A symbiotic relationship in which one of the partners is harmed and the other benefits.

Mutualism A symbiotic relationship in which both partners benefit.

Commensalism A symbiotic relationship in which one partner benefits and the other is indifferent.