




RELATIONSHIPS IN THE INTERTIDAL

Studying the relationships of living things in the environment has been important to indigenous people from the very beginning. More recently, the study of relationships in a natural community has been called **ecology**. Today, we will look at some interactions in the intertidal.

All of us are familiar with feeding interactions, like predator-prey. But some living things have very unique relationships that contribute to their survival. These types of interactions are generally called **symbiosis**. Whether the living organisms in a symbiosis are benefited or harmed determines what they are called specifically: **parasitism, commensalism, or mutualism**.

While you watch the video, study the example below and then use the chart on the back of the page to record your own observations during the virtual field trip.

Organisms in the Relationship	Explain the relationship	Who Benefits?	Who is Harmed?	Who is unaffected?	Type of Relationship	Why is the relationship important to the community?
Example:  Yaay (Humpback Whale) and S'ook (Barnacles)	Barnacles attach to the flukes of whales.	Barnacles – filter feeders. Attaching to a whale means they always have nutrient rich water flow	No-one	The whale – barnacles do not harm the whale. Do they make them itchy?	Symbiosis - Commensalism	The drifter community is critical in the ocean's food webs. Barnacles settling onto many surfaces increases diversity and abundance.

Organisms in the Relationship	Explain the relationship	Who Benefits?	Who is Harmed?	Who is unaffected?	Type of Relationship	Why is the relationship important to the community?

Test your knowledge!

Draw a line connecting the form of symbiosis to the correct pairing of smiley faces (hint: a green smiley face means the organism is benefiting, a yellow neutral face means the organism is unaffected, and a red frowny face means the organism is negatively affected).


Commensalism

Parasitism

Mutualism



Answer Key:

Mutualism 

Commensalism 

Parasitism 