Aim: How do organisms interact in an ecosystem?

1. MUTUALISM

a relationship between two organisms in which both species benefit

clownfish and sea anemone

The anemone provides a home/protection as the clownfish is immune to its sting. The clownfish drops food particles that the anemones can use as nutrition.

crocodile and plover

The plover eats the leeches that get caught in the crocodile's teeth. The crocodile is then relieved of those parasites.

2. **COMMENSALISM**

a relationship between two organisms in which one species benefits and the other is unaffected

cattle and egret

5.

The egret will eat insects that have been disturbed when the cattle are moving through the grass searching for food.

3. PARASITISM

a relationship between two organisms in which one species benefits and the other is harmed

human and tapeworm

The tapeworm derives food (and shelter) from the human host and the human is denied the nutrition that is consumed by the tapeworm.

SYMBIOSIS

a close physical relationship between two organisms

4. PREDATION

A predator is an organism that eats another organism. The prey is the organism which the predator eats.

Some examples of predator and prey are lion and zebra, bear and fish, and fox and rabbit. The words "predator" and "prey" are almost always used to mean only animals that eat animals, but the same concept (although untraditional) can also applies to plants: bear and berry, rabbit and lettuce, grasshopper and leaf.

COMPETITION

the fight for a resource (food, territory, mating rights)

intraspecific competition – between members of the same species

interspecific competition – between members of different species

interference competition – when an organism prevents or blocks use of a resource by another organism

exploitation competition – when an organism uses up a resource more quickly than others can

resource partitioning – sharing of resources

lions and leopards – lions eat bigger prey, leopards eat smaller hawks and owls – hawks hunt during day, owls hunt at night different species of birds – use different parts of the same tree