



COOPERATION IN NATURE

Many organisms live together in a relationship of mutual benefit, testifying of a Creator who designed them to live together in harmony.

Mutualism

A relationship between different species in which both species benefit.

Bees and Flowers

Bees pollinate flowers while sucking their nectar.



Ants and Aphids

Certain ants protect aphids against their enemies, and the aphids produce a sweet liquid, which is eaten by ants.



Commensalism

A relationship between organisms of different species in which one benefits while the other is not significantly affected.

Oak Galls and Insects

A tiny wasp or fly lays her eggs on the leaf. The oak produces a nutritious and protecting tissue around the eggs. The larvae feed on the gall tissue until they emerge as adults. The tree is not much affected by the activities of the gall insects.



Larvae on an oak leaf

Orchids and trees

Many orchids and other plants live on the trunks and branches of large tropical trees. The trees provide shelter and greater exposure to sunlight for the orchids.



Orchid living on the trunk of a tree

Altruism

Altruism is a behavior in which one individual helps another with some cost to itself.

Many species have sentries that warn the rest of the group when a predator is seen. The warning call helps the others, but brings attention to the sentry, increasing its risk of detection by the predator.



Meerkat family of males looking in all directions for enemies

In some species, an orphan baby will be adopted by any adult, whether related or not. The orphan benefits, but the adult experiences some cost in raising the baby.



Ring Tailed Lemur have been seen to adopt orphans

“How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.” Psalm 104: 24