Symbiosis Worksheet

Directions: Classify each of the following scenarios as either mutualism, commensalism, and parasitism.

1. Barnacles create home sites by attaching themselves to whales.

2. Ticks feed on deer blood to the deer’s detriment.

3. The stork uses its saw-like bill to cut up the dead animals it eats. As a result, the dead animals carcass is accessible to some bees for food and egg laying.

4. Ostriches and gazelles feed next to each other. They both watch for predators and alert each other to danger. Since the visual abilities of the two species are different, they each can identify threats the other animal would not as readily see.

5. Yucca flowers are pollinated by yucca moths. The moths lay their eggs in the flowers where the larvae hatch and eat some of the developing seeds. Both species benefit.

6. Hermit crabs live in shells made and then abandoned by snails.

7. A cuckoo may lay its eggs in a warbler’s nest. The cuckoo’s young will displace the warbler’s young and will be raised by the warbler.
8. As buffalos walk through the grass, insects become active and are seen and eaten by cowbirds.

9. Silverfish live and hunt with army ants. They share the prey.

10. Oxpeckers feed on ticks found on rhinos.

11. Wrasse fish feed on the parasites found on the black sea’s bass body.

12. Mistletoe extracts water and nutrients from the spruce to the spruce tree’s detriment.

13. A flea feeds on a mouse’s blood to the mouse’s detriment.

14. Remoras attach themselves to a shark’s body. They then travel with the shark and feed on the leftover food scraps from the shark’s meals.

15. Honey guide birds alert and direct badgers to bee hives. The badgers then expose the hives and feed on the honey first. Then the honey guide birds eat.