

Predator, Prey, and Symbiosis Cipher Puzzle

- Students solve problems to discover a secret message
- NO PREP, NO MARKING, NO MATERIALS

Students use clues to answer questions and their answers reveal a hidden message.

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Instructions: Read each ecology clue and identify the relationship, role, or interaction. Use the Predator, Prey, and Symbiosis Cipher Key to find the cipher number for that term then convert the number to a letter using the chart below A = 1, B = 2, C = 3, and so on. Write the letters in order and add spaces to reveal the hidden message.

Predator, Prey, and Symbiosis Cipher Key

Role/Term	Number	Role/Term	Number
Predator	19	Host	20
Prey	16	Parasite	18
Mutualism	5	Predator-prey relationship	1
Commensalism	3	Symbiosis	4
Parasitism	9	Cooperation	12
Competition	14	Resource competition	25

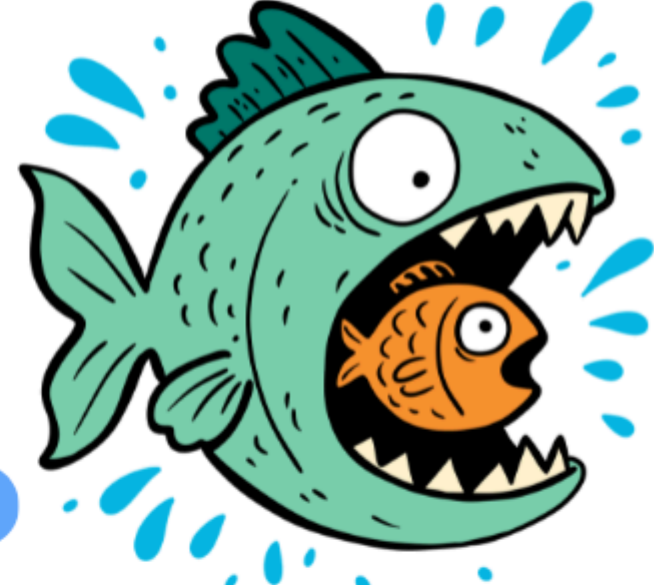
Student Questions

#	Clue	Role/Term	Cipher Number	Letter
1	A lion catches and eats a zebra. What role does the lion have?			
2	A mouse is hunted and eaten by an owl. What role does the mouse have?			
3	Bees get nectar from flowers and help spread pollen. What relationship is this?			
4	A barnacle attaches to a whale and benefits while the whale is mostly unaffected. What relationship is this?			
5	A tick feeds on blood from a deer and harms the deer. What relationship is this?			
6	Cleaner fish eat parasites from larger fish, and both organisms benefit. What relationship is this?			
7	A hawk hunts and catches a snake. What role does the hawk have?			
8	A tapeworm lives inside a dog and takes nutrients from the dog. What relationship is this?			
9	Two bird species are both trying to use the same nest. What type of interaction is this?			
10	A dog has fleas feeding on its blood. What role does the dog have?			
11	Fungi help plant roots absorb minerals, while the plant gives the fungi sugars. What relationship is this?			
12	A leech attaches to a fish and feeds on its blood. What role does the leech have?			
13	A fox hunts a rabbit, and the rabbit is eaten. What type of feeding relationship is shown?			
14	Cattle egrets eat insects stirred up by cattle, while the cattle are mostly unaffected. What relationship is this?			
15	A tree loses water and nutrients to mistletoe. What role does the tree have?			
16	A close, long-term relationship between two different species is called what?			
17	A spider catches and eats a fly. What type of feeding relationship is this?			
18	A fungus causes disease in a plant and gets nutrients from it. What relationship is this?			
19	African wild dogs hunt together in packs. What interaction among the same species is this?			
20	Two deer feed on the same limited grass during a dry season. What kind of competition is this?			

Number-to-Letter Chart

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T

Hidden Message: _____



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1	A lion catches and eats a zebra. What role does the lion have?	Predator	19	S
2	A mouse is hunted and eaten by an owl. What role does the mouse have?	Prey	16	P

SCROLL
to take a look inside!



NO PREP, MATERIALS, OR MARKING

HOW THESE ACTIVITIES HELP YOU

- **Saves Prep Time** - Everything is pre-made, ready to go, and fully editable.
- **Provides Built-In Assessments** - The activity lets students self-assess and lets you quickly check for understanding.
- **Perfect for:** Review, Practice, Homework, and more!

MULTIPLE QUESTION TYPES THAT CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Example

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Full Teacher Answer Key



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7	A hawk hunts and catches a snake. What role does the hawk have?			
8	A tapeworm lives inside a dog and takes nutrients from it. What relationship is this?			
9	Two bird species are both trying to use the same nesting area. What general interaction is that?			
10	A dog has fleas feeding on its blood. What role does the dog have?			
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14	Cattle egrets eat insects stirred up by cattle, while the cattle are mostly unaffected. What relationship is this?			
15	A tree loses water and nutrients to mistletoe. What role does the tree have?			
16	A clown fish-term relationship between two different species is called what?			

Students Use Clues to Answer Questions. Their Answers Reveal a Hidden Message.

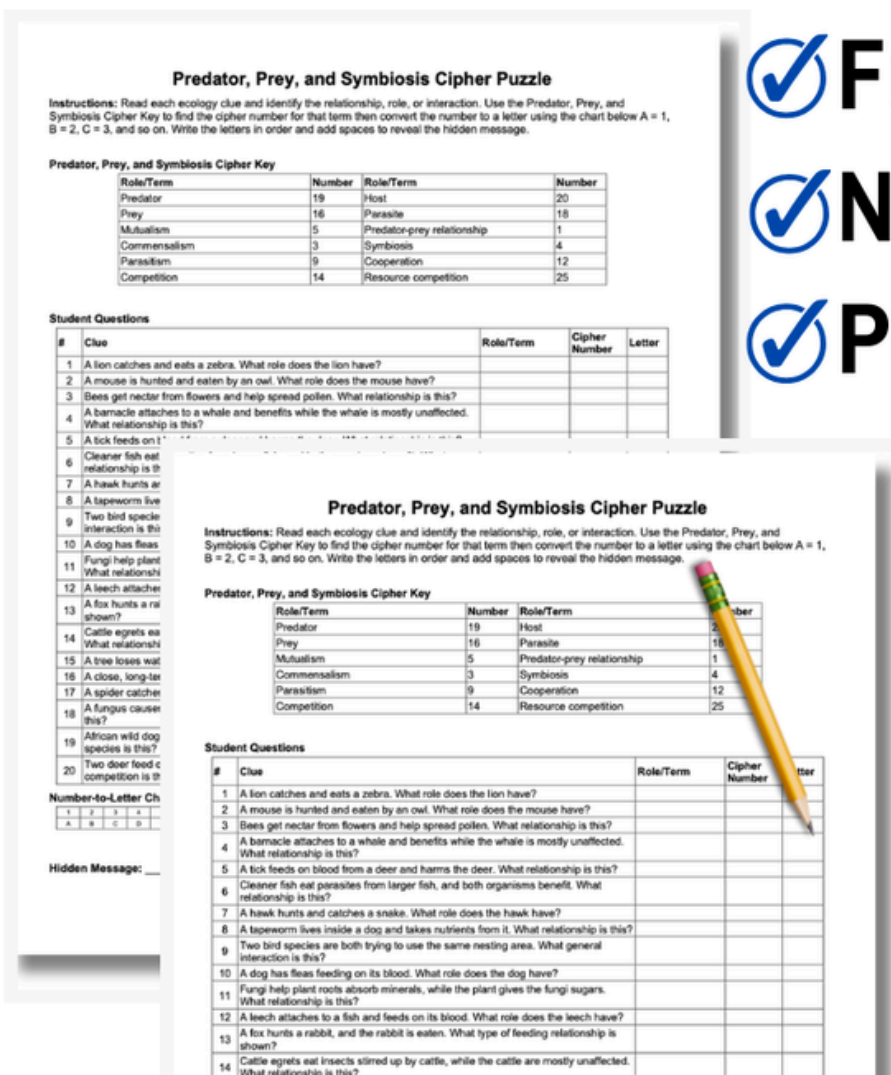
What Will Your Students Learn?

SIMPLY DOWNLOAD AND
GIVE TO YOUR STUDENTS

- ✓ Full Answer Key
- ✓ No Prep, Just Print
- ✓ Perfect for

- Review
- Practice
- Additional work for early finishers

- How to identify predators and prey
- How to recognize predator-prey relationships
- How to distinguish between mutualism, commensalism, and parasitism
- How to identify hosts and parasites in real-world examples
- How competition and cooperation affect organisms
- How to connect ecology vocabulary to clues and patterns in a puzzle format



NO PREP or Materials

- **Predator, Prey, and Symbiosis Cipher Puzzle Worksheet**
- A student-friendly activity with 20 clues focused on identifying species interactions, including predator-prey relationships, symbiosis, mutualism, commensalism, parasitism, competition, and cooperation.

- **Clear Instructions**
 - Students read each clue, identify the correct relationship or ecological role, use the cipher key to find the matching number, and convert it to a letter to decode a hidden message.

- **Reinforces:**
 - Predator and prey roles
 - Predator-prey relationships
 - Mutualism, commensalism, and parasitism
 - Hosts and parasites
 - Competition, resource competition, and cooperation
 - Species interactions and ecology vocabulary
- **Includes answer key and number-to-letter conversions**
- **No-Prep Resource**
 - Ready to print or assign digitally for review, practice, early finishers, stations, homework, or sub plans.

What You Get

Students Use Their Answers to Reveal a Hidden Message

1. For each clue, write the answer in the 'Answer' column.

2. Identify the letter to be extracted using the "Letter position" column.

3. Write the letter in the 'Letter extracted from Answer' column.

4. Write your letters in order below the table to reveal the hidden message.

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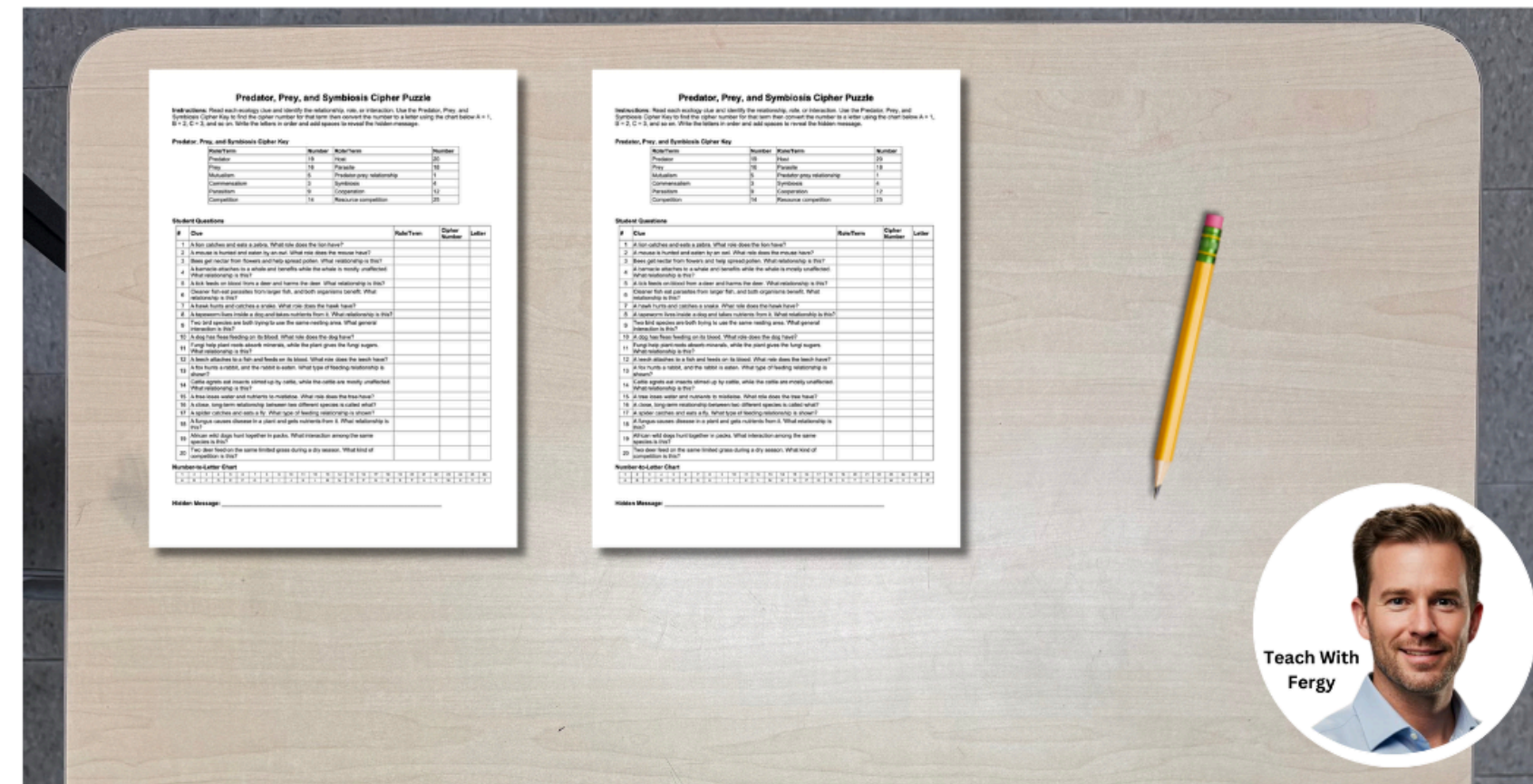
Your Activity

- Is a fun and interactive way to reinforce concepts and study
- DIGITAL and PRINT ready
- FULLY EDITABLE
- Complete Answer Key



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Thanks
**for your interest
in this resource!**

I am a real person and if
you have any questions,
suggestions, or concerns,
please reach out.



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TWF

Teach With Fergy

*Let's
Connect!*

