An Unlikely Duo: Symbiosis in Nature

Name: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary Words: Match the definition to each word.

1. The bird that often sits on the backs of water buffaloes is called an _____.
2. The oxpecker helps the buffalo by eating _____ and other pests from its fur.
3. The relationship where both animals benefit is called _____ or mutualism.
4. The oxpecker warns the buffalo about _____ by squawking loudly.
5. In this relationship, the buffalo gets rid of insects, and the oxpecker gets _____.

Word bank: food, oxpecker, predators, symbiosis, insects

Multiple Choice: Choose the correct answer from the choices for each question.

1. What does the oxpecker do for the buffalo?
   a) Eats insects from its back
   b) Makes a nest in its fur
   c) Fights off other animals
   d) Brings it water

2. What is the term for a relationship where both organisms benefit?
   a) Mutualism
   b) Competition
   c) Parasitism
   d) Predation

3. How does the buffalo help the oxpecker?
   a) By carrying it to new places
   b) By giving it water
   c) By providing food in the form of insects
   d) By building it a nest

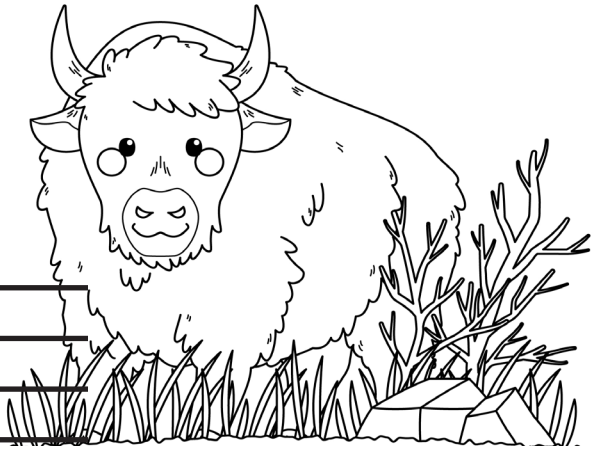
4. What do the oxpeckers do when they see a predator?
   a) Hide in the grass
   b) Fly away silently
   c) Squawk loudly to warn the buffalo
   d) Ignore the predator

Discussion & Reflection: Answer the following questions in complete sentences

1. Why might it be helpful for a buffalo to have a bird with good eyesight on its back?

2. Can you think of another example of mutualism in nature? Describe it.

3. This shows me that God is (Circle the word):

Wise Powerful Caring Creative All of the above

Explain your choice: