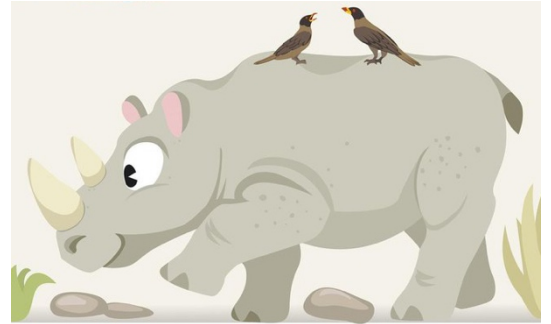# Symbiotic Relationships

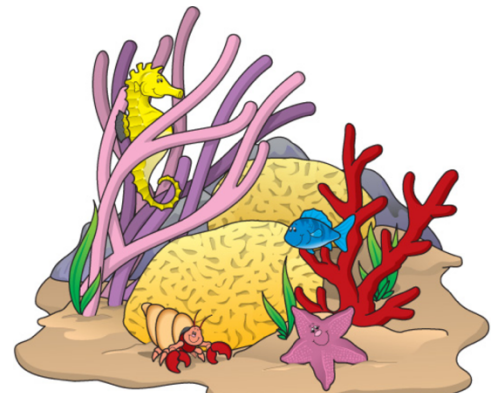## Mutualism (+/+)

- **Definition**: When two interacting species benefit each other by mutually increasing both species' chances of survival or reproduction

- **Examples**: Oxpecker birds gain a safe habitat on rhinoceros's backs and in exchange eat parasites and insects that would harm rhinos

Commensalism (+/0)

- **Definition**: Species interactions in which one species benefits, but the other is neither harmed nor helped

- **Examples**: fish hide in coral reefs and gain protection from predators without affecting the reefs

Parasitism (+/-)

- **Definition**: an interaction in which one organism (the parasite) lives on or in another organism (the host). Many parasites harm a host.

- **Examples**: tapeworms, bacteria, **pathogens** (parasites that cause disease)

Predator/Prey (+/-)

- **Definition:** an interaction in which one animal typically kills and consumes another animal

- **Example**: lions eating gazelles, cows eating grass