STUDENT WORKSHEET

Lesson 2 – Ecology of Disease: Comparing Viruses, Bacteria, and Eukaryotes

Name_____

Use this table to classify the ecological interactions in the reading passage, *Exploring Ecological Interactions*.

Organism 1	Effect + or -	Organism 2	Effect + or -	Type of interaction*

*Choose: commensalism, amensalism, mutualism, parasitism, predation, competition

Ecological Interaction Questions

1. Why is the relationship between the dung beetle and buffalo an example of commensalism?

2. What is an example of mutualism in the passage?

3. Why would you consider the tsetse fly to be a parasite?

4. What is the difference between a predator and a parasite?

Assessment Questions

Indicate whether the statement is "truth" or "myth" (true or false). Provide a short answer citing evidence to support your claim.

1. An ecological interaction is one in which both species benefit.

Truth/Myth

Evidence to support claim:

2. Parasitism and infection (by a disease-causing agent) are examples of ecological interactions.

Truth/Myth

Evidence to support claim:

3. The disease malaria is caused by a parasite that is injected with a mosquito's saliva when the mosquito bites someone. In this case, the mosquito is also considered to be a parasite.

Truth/Myth

Evidence to support claim:

4. Read the passage below and indicate whether the statement is true or false.
   In Africa, the bullhorn acacia tree houses a species of ant in its thorns. The thorns protect the ants from various predators. If an insect such as a grasshopper tries to eat the acacia leaves, the ants viciously attack it.

Statement: The relationship between the acacia and the ant is an example of commensalism.

Truth/Myth

Evidence to support claim: