



Fish Mystery: What's Happening Inside Their Habitats?

Description

Remoras are small fish that can stick to big animals like sharks and rays. They use a special suction cup on their heads. Remoras travel with these animals and eat parasites from their skin. For a long time, people thought this was a helpful relationship. Remoras got shelter and food, while the big animals stayed clean.

Now, some scientists think differently. Emily Yeager, a student at the University of Miami, studied remoras. She found that these fish often do not help their hosts. A study from 2025 showed that turtles with remoras ate less. Also, remoras can hurt their hosts. Some even go inside the bodies of their hosts.

Yeager wrote a paper showing that remoras swim inside the cloacas of manta rays. The cloaca is an opening for various body functions. This might harm the manta rays. They cannot easily remove the remoras because they don't have hands.

Yeager hopes that in the future, scientists can learn more about how remoras interact with their hosts. Relationships in nature can be complicated.

Vocabulary List:

1. **remoras** //rɪ'mɔrəz// (noun): small fish that stick to larger animals
2. **suction** //'sʌkʃən// (noun): a pulling action that holds things in place
3. **parasites** //'pærəsəɪts// (noun): small animals or bugs that live on others
4. **hosts** //'hɒstz// (noun): animals or people that other animals live on
5. **cloaca** //kloʊ'eɪkə// (noun): an opening used for some body functions
6. **interact** //,ɪntər'ækt// (verb): to act or work together with someone

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What do remoras use to stick to big animals?

Option: Teeth

Option: Fins

Option: Suction cup



Option: Gills

2. Who studied remoras at the University of Miami?

Option: Sarah Johnson

Option: Emily Yeager

Option: Michael Smith

Option: Rachel Wong

3. What did the 2025 study find about turtles with remoras?

Option: They ate more

Option: They were healthier

Option: They ate less

Option: They swam faster

4. What part of manta rays do remoras swim inside?

Option: Mouth

Option: Gills

Option: Cloaca

Option: Fins

5. What do remoras primarily eat off their hosts?

Option: Flesh

Option: Parasites

Option: Algae

Option: Plankton

6. What type of relationship did people initially think existed between remoras and big animals?

Option: Harmful

Option: Helpful

Option: Neutral

Option: Symbiotic

True-False

7. Remoras are large fish that primarily hunt other fish.

8. Emily Yeager discovered that remoras can sometimes hurt their hosts.



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9. The cloaca is an opening for various body functions.
 10. Remoras provide a cleaning service for manta rays without any negative effects.
 11. Some remoras enter inside the bodies of their hosts.
 12. Scientists fully understand the relationships between remoras and their hosts.

Gap-Fill

13. Remoras are small fish that can stick to big animals like sharks and rays using a special suction cup on their heads. They travel with these animals and eat parasites from their skin. However, a study found that turtles with remoras ate _____ less.
14. Emily Yeager studied remoras at the University of Miami and wrote a paper showing that they swim inside the _____ of manta rays.
15. Some scientists now think that the relationship between remoras and big animals is _____ rather than helpful.
16. The cloaca is an opening that has various _____ functions.
17. Remoras can cause harm to their hosts because they cannot easily remove the _____ due to not having hands.
18. Yeager hopes that in the future, scientists can learn more about how remoras _____ with their hosts.

Answer

- Multiple Choice:** 1. Suction cup 2. Emily Yeager 3. They ate less 4. Cloaca 5. Parasites 6. Helpful
True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. False
Gap-Fill: 13. less 14. cloacas 15. harmful 16. body 17. remoras 18. interact



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