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## Why Are Fish Hiding in Their Habitats?

### Description

Remoras are small fish known for their ability to attach themselves to larger animals. They have a suction cup on their heads that allows them to cling to creatures like sharks, rays, and turtles. Traditionally, it was believed that this relationship benefited both parties. Remoras eat parasites and dead skin from their hosts, while gaining protection and transport. However, new research suggests this connection may not be as helpful as once thought.

Emily Yeager, a PhD student at the University of Miami, highlights a series of troubling findings about remoras. A 2025 study showed that sea turtles with remoras grazed less, and the scientists saw only one example of a remora cleaning a turtle's shell. In fact, some remoras were observed entering their host's bodies, including whale sharks.

Yeager's latest paper argues that remoras might act more like pests. This study revealed that remoras have been found inside the cloacas of manta rays. The term "cloacal diving" was used to describe this unusual behaviour. Yeager and her team collected footage showing remoras inserting themselves into manta rays, causing concern about possible harm.

Researchers continue to explore these interactions. They suspect that a remora inside a manta ray's cloaca could cause damage or interfere with important functions like breathing and reproduction. Yeager believes this research offers new insights into the complex relationships between remoras and their hosts.

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### Vocabulary List:

1. **suction** //ˈsʌkʃən// (noun): a strong pulling force made by air or liquid
2. **parasites** //ˈpærəsaɪts// (noun): small animals that live on other animals
3. **hosts** //hɒsts// (noun): animals that carry other animals on their bodies
4. **grazed** //greɪzd// (verb): ate plants or grass in slow, small amounts
5. **cloacas** //kloʊˈækəz// (noun): openings animals use for waste and reproduction
6. **interfere** //ˌɪntərˈfɪr// (verb): make it harder for something to work properly

### Comprehension Questions



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## Multiple Choice

1. What do remoras primarily attach themselves to?
  - Option: Other fish
  - Option: Larger animals
  - Option: Coral reefs
  - Option: Submarine structures
2. What do remoras use to cling to their hosts?
  - Option: Claws
  - Option: Teeth
  - Option: Suction cup
  - Option: Gills
3. What was one benefit traditionally attributed to the relationship between remoras and their hosts?
  - Option: Remoras eat host's flesh
  - Option: Hosts provide remoras with shelter
  - Option: Remoras clean parasites off hosts
  - Option: Hosts transport remoras to different locations
4. Who conducted the study mentioned concerning the relationship between remoras and their hosts?
  - Option: Dr. Richard Dawkins
  - Option: Emily Yeager
  - Option: Dr. Jane Goodall
  - Option: Prof. Charles Darwin
5. In what year did the study about sea turtles and remoras take place?
  - Option: 2020
  - Option: 2021
  - Option: 2022
  - Option: 2025
6. What unusual behavior was observed in remoras in relation to manta rays?
  - Option: Eating their scales
  - Option: Climbing onto their backs
  - Option: Inserting themselves into their cloacas
  - Option: Cleaning their eyes



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### True-False

7. Remoras are known to detach easily from larger animals.
8. Traditionally, the relationship between remoras and their hosts was seen as purely beneficial.
9. Emily Yeager is a PhD student at Harvard University.
10. Some remoras were found inside the bodies of whale sharks.
11. Cloacal diving refers to normal behavior for remoras.
12. Researchers believe remoras may cause damage to their hosts in some cases.

### Gap-Fill

13. Remoras are small fish known for their ability to attach themselves to \_\_\_\_\_.
14. The suction cup on a remora's head allows it to cling to \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Emily Yeager is a \_\_\_\_\_ student at the University of Miami.
16. A 2025 study showed that sea turtles with remoras grazed \_\_\_\_\_.
17. Remoras were observed inserting themselves into the \_\_\_\_\_ of manta rays.
18. Yeager believes this research offers new insights into the complex relationships between remoras and their \_\_\_\_\_.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Larger animals 2. Suction cup 3. Remoras clean parasites off hosts 4. Emily Yeager 5. 2025 6. Inserting themselves into their cloacas

**True-False:** 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. True

**Gap-Fill:** 13. larger animals 14. creatures 15. PhD 16. less 17. cloacas 18. hosts

### CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL3



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