**Interdependence of Living Things – Fact Sheet 1**

**Lemon shark and Remora fish**

The shark and remora relationship benefits both species. Remoras eat scraps of prey dropped by the shark. They also feed on parasites on the shark’s skin and in its mouth. This makes the shark happy because the parasites would otherwise irritate the shark.

The remora receives more than a convenient food source; the sharks protect them from predators and give them free transportation throughout the oceans. Remoras keep the waters clear of scraps around the shark, preventing the development of unhealthy organisms near the shark.

**A picture containing reptile, grass, crocodilian reptile, outdoor

Description automatically generatedAlligator and Egyptian plover**

A crocodile is a carnivore which means it eats all kinds of animals that live in the water and even cattle. They have strong jaws. They do not chew their food, just swallow the entire prey into their stomach where it is broken down. It is while swallowing that the bits of flesh get stuck in their teeth.

The Egyptian plover recognizes the crocodile’s need when it is lying with his mouth open and bits of food stuck in between. They get into its mouth boldly, eat the food and fly away. The crocodile allows them to do this – the plover helps to maintain a good state of crocodile dental health!

**Giraffe and Oxpecker**

These two animals rely on each other. A giraffe can be a host for many unwanted parasites, like ticks and fleas, that cause the giraffe trouble. Thankfully, the giraffe's pal, the oxpecker, likes to eat these ticks, flies, and other intruders off of the giraffe.

Both animals help one another. The giraffe gets cleaned, and the oxpecker gets fed. As the name suggests, the oxpecker has a similar relationship with other animals such as zebras, antelope, buffalo and of course, oxen.

**A picture containing insect

Description automatically generatedBlack ants and Blackfly**

Blackfly are aphids; they suck the sap, collecting sugar rich fluids from host plants. They then excrete equally large quantities of waste, called honeydew, which in turn becomes a sugar-rich meal for ants.

Where there is sugar, there is bound to be ants. Some ants are so hungry for the aphid honeydew, that they will "milk" the aphids to make them excrete the sugary substance. The ants stroke the aphids with their antennae, stimulating them to release the honeydew. The blackfly benefit as the ants protect them from predators such as midges, wasps, hoverfly and ladybirds.