

Science Toolkit: Grade 4 Objective 3.F.1.a

Student Handout: Science: Grade 4 Objective 3.F.1.a

Standard 3.0 Life Science

Topic F. Ecology

Indicator 1. Explain ways that individuals and groups of organisms interact with each other and their environment.

Objective a. Identify and describe the interactions of organisms present in a habitat.

Competition for space, food, and water

Beneficial interactions: nesting, pollination, seed dispersal, oysters filtering as in the Chesapeake Bay, etc.

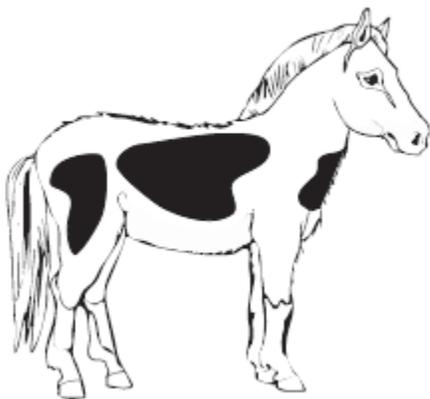
Roles within food chains and webs: scavengers, decomposers, producers, consumers.

Selected Response (SR) Item

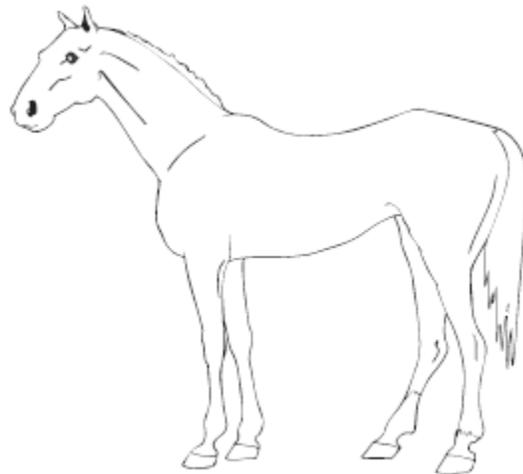
Question

Use the information and pictures below to answer the following.

Wild ponies have lived on Assateague Island for about 300 years. The ponies have become well adapted to the harsh environment, including extreme temperatures in summer and winter. The ponies mainly eat salty marsh grasses and grow thick fur in winter. Domestic horses are larger than the ponies. An Assateague pony drinks twice as much fresh water as a domestic horse does. Other organisms on the island include rodents, birds, small foxes, marsh grasses, mussels, and deer.



Assateague Pony



Domestic Horse

During the summer, flies and ticks bite the ponies. The cattle egret is a bird that sometimes eats the flies and ticks from the ponies.

This relationship between the pony and the egret helps

- A. only the pony
- B. the flies and ticks
- C. only the cattle egret
- D. the pony and the cattle egret

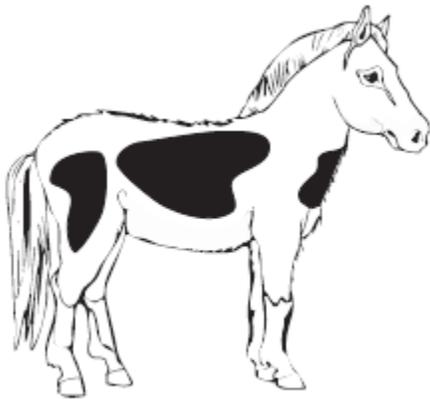
Correct Answer

D. the pony and the cattle egret

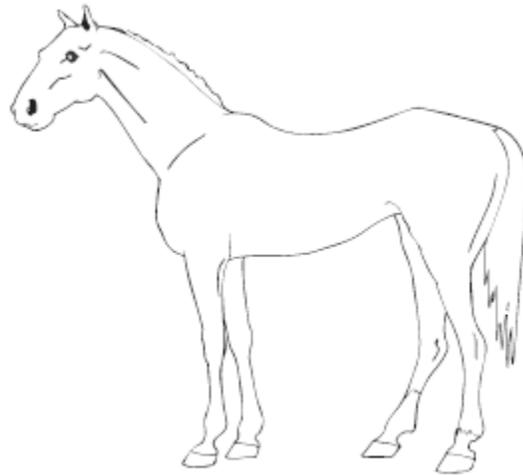
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