

3. The symbiotic relationship is based on the environment. For instance, the alga might not need the lichen if water were more plentiful.

Copyright © Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

1. The alga provides nutrition to the lichen, and in return receives moisture and protection from the elements.
2. Answers will vary. Students should recognize that fungi are adaptable but also understand that the majority prefer moist habitats.



1. The photo shows an alga living in a symbiotic relationship with a fungus. What might each gain from the relationship?
2. Would you be surprised to find fungi growing in the desert? Explain your answer.
3. Some types of algae draw water from the lichen after rainfall. Would this be more important in a wet climate or in the desert? Explain your answer.