



Relationship #14



The leech attaches onto a living host and drains blood. Blood represents a key food source for the leech. The bite of the leech contains anesthetics that numb the affected area so that the bite is not noticed. In addition, anti-coagulants are released by the leech that prevent the host blood from clotting. In large numbers leeches can significantly weaken a host. Leeches can transmit disease-causing microorganisms through their bites. The host organism is usually not killed in this relationship.