

What makes a living thing?



Although all living things look different to each other even if they are the same species, there are 7 things that all living things do.

These 7 things are called life processes.

A thing is only living if it does all 7 of these life processes.

All living things move.

Animals move their body. From big movements like a jump, to small movements like a wink.



Plants turn, or grow, towards the light.

All living things reproduce.

Animals have babies.



New plants grow from seeds.



All living things are sensitive.

Living things are sensitive to their surroundings.



Animals react to changes in the temperature around them.

Plants grow towards sunlight and send their roots deeper if they need to find more water.



All living things need nutrition.



Living things need food for energy.

Plants make their own food using energy from the sun.



Animals eat plants and/or other animals.

All living things excrete.



Plants and animals both need to get rid of waste gas and water.

Animals also need to get rid of other waste products.



All living things respire.



This is NOT breathing!
Breathing is a different process. It is when you take air into the lungs and expel air out of the lungs.

Plants and animals use oxygen in the air to turn food into energy.

What will
you use
your energy
for today?

All living things grow.



Young animals grow into adults
and plant seedlings grown in to
mature plants.



You can remember these seven characteristics by using either of these anacronyms:

M – movement
R – reproduction
S – sensitivity

N – nutrition
E – excretion
R – respiration
G - growth



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Create a poster to explain one of the seven characteristics of living things. It should be easy enough for a Year 2 child to follow.

On your poster you should try to have an animal and plant example (this could be a drawing).

Make your poster bright and eye-catching and fairly simple so the message is not confused.

Extn: create other posters to explain the other characteristics.