

# Needs of Living Things

## Teacher's Guide



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# National Standards Correlations

## Benchmarks for Science Literacy

(Project 2061 – AAAS) Grades 3–5

### The Living Environment

By the end of the fifth grade, students should know that:

- **Cells (5A):**

Some living things consist of a single cell. Like familiar organisms, they need food, water, and air; a way to dispose of waste; and an environment they can live in.

- **Interdependence of Life (5D):**

In all environments - freshwater, marine, forest, desert, grassland, mountain, and others - organisms with similar needs may compete with one another for resources, including food, space, water, air, and shelter. In any particular environment, the growth and survival of organisms depend on the physical conditions.

- **Flow of Matter and Energy (5E):**

Some source of “energy” is needed for all organisms to stay alive and grow.

## National Science Education Standards

(Content Standards: K–4, National Academy of Sciences, c. 1996)

### Life Science - Content Standard C

As a result of activities in grades K-4, all students should develop an understanding of:

#### The Characteristics of Organisms

- Organisms have basic needs. For example, animals need air, water, and food; plants require air, water, nutrients, and light. Organisms can survive only in environments in which their needs can be met. The world has many different environments, and distinct environments support the life of different types of organisms.

- The behavior of individual organisms is influenced by internal cues (such as hunger) and external cues (such as a change in the environment). Humans and other organisms have senses that help them detect internal and external cues.

# Student Learning Objectives

Upon viewing the video and completing the enclosed student activities, students will be able to do the following:

- Explain that living things have the following characteristics: they are made up of one or more cells, carry out movement, grow, and develop.
- Identify and understand the importance of different chemical reactions carried out by living things.
- Define metabolism as the sum of chemical reactions in living things.
- Cite examples of how living things react to stimuli or changes in their environment.
- Understand that living things reproduce. Reproduction is the process by which living things give life to the same type of living thing.
- List examples of some ways living things obtain food.
- Compare and contrast the ways plants and animals obtain food.
- Explain why water is vital to the existence of living things.
- Identify examples of adaptations that enable living things to produce food. For example, alligators possess strong jaws for capturing and eating prey.
- Understand that living things need air and the proper temperature to survive.

# Assessment

## **Preliminary Test (p. 14–15):**

The Preliminary Test is an assessment tool designed to gain an understanding of students' preexisting knowledge. It can also be used as a benchmark upon which to assess student progress based on the objectives stated on the previous pages.

## **Post-Test (p. 16–17):**

The Post-Test can be utilized as an assessment tool following student completion of the program and student activities. The results of the Post-Test can be compared against the results of the Preliminary Test to assess student progress.

## **Video Review (p. 18):**

The Video Review can be used as an assessment tool or as a student activity. There are two sections. The first part contains questions displayed during the program. The second part consists of a five-question video quiz to be answered at the end of the video.

# Introducing the Program

Before viewing the program, ask your students to hold their breath while you count to 15. Ask students how they felt as time went on and why they felt the urge to gasp for air. Write the following phrase on the board, “Needs of Living Things.” Ask students what other things they need to survive. Make sure they know the difference between needs and wants. Ask them if they could live without food or water. As they list needs, write them on the board. The list should eventually include things like: air, food, water, proper temperature, and living space.

Next, ask your students what types of living things are found near the school or around their houses. Write their answers on the board. Make sure the list includes plants and animals. Ask students how the needs of plants and animals are similar to and different from one another. You may want to introduce the terms metabolism and photosynthesis before showing the program. Tell students to pay close attention to the video to learn more about the needs and characteristics of living things.

## Program Viewing Suggestions

The student master “Video Review” (p. 18) is provided for distribution to students. You may choose to have your students complete this master while viewing the program or do so upon its conclusion.

The program is approximately 14 minutes in length and includes a five-question video quiz. Answers are not provided to the Video Quiz in the video, but are included in this guide on page 12. You may choose to grade student quizzes as an assessment tool or to review the answers in class.

The video is content-rich with numerous vocabulary words. For this reason you may want to periodically stop the video to review and discuss new terminology and concepts.

# Video Script

1. From the moment you woke up this morning, there were many things you needed to do.
2. You may have been thirsty and taken a drink.
3. Or perhaps you were hungry and ate breakfast.
4. Maybe you were cold and put on warmer clothes.
5. These are all common activities that humans need to do throughout the course of a day.
6. Most other living things, including plants and animals, also have needs they have to fulfill on a regular basis to survive.
7. During the next few minutes, we are going to take a look at some of the fascinating characteristics and needs of living things.
8. **Graphic Transition – What are Living Things**
9. There are over 10 million different kinds of living things on Earth that we know of.
10. Living things come in a wide range of shapes, sizes, and colors.
11. All living organisms have certain basic characteristics.
12. First, living things are made up of one or more cells.
13. This amoeba is made up of a single cell,...
14. ...whereas our bodies are made up of billions of cells.
15. Cells are the basic building blocks of life.
16. Another characteristic of most living things is movement.
17. This deer moves at a remarkable speed.
18. If you think of different kinds of animals, think of all the different ways they move.
19. Plants do not move the same way that animals do, but certain plant parts do move over time. So in a way, plants are capable of movement.
20. Living things also grow and develop.
21. For example, you were once a small baby, but you have grown.
22. Most living things grow throughout their lives,...
23. ...and in some cases, change form dramatically.
24. In order to carry out their lives, living things need to perform a wide variety of complex activities.
25. Some of these activities involve chemical reactions.
26. Complex chemical reactions enable living things to grow, store energy, and repair damaged cells.
27. Metabolism is the term used to collectively describe the many chemical reactions going on in living things.
28. Metabolism is another characteristic of living organisms.
29. **You Decide!** Why do some animals migrate seasonally?
30. Most animals migrate to find more suitable habitat to make it easier for them to survive. This is an example of animals reacting to changes in their environment.

# Video Script

31. Generally speaking, living things are capable of reacting to changes in their environment, referred to as stimuli.
32. The final characteristic or need of living things we will address is the ability to reproduce.
33. Reproduction is the process by which living things give life to the same type of living thing.
34. Without reproduction, living things would become extinct, unable to continue their existence.
35. **Graphic Transition – Need for Living Space**
36. In order for living things to survive, they must fulfill certain needs.
37. One of the most important needs is space, or a place to live.
38. Habitat refers to the place where an organism lives.
39. Some living things, such as microorganisms, need a very tiny space.
40. Whereas other animals, such as bears, need a very large area to roam.
41. Quite often, living space and the important resources it contains are in short supply.
42. Living things often compete with each other for space and other resources.
43. When humans use living space for agriculture and buildings, it becomes difficult and sometimes impossible for animals to survive there.
44. **Graphic Transition – Need for Food and Water**
45. As we mentioned earlier, living things need food to carry out body processes.
46. Plants use energy from the sun to make food.
47. Animals eat plants or other animals for food. Food gives animals the energy they need to survive.
48. **You Observe!** What are these cows eating for energy?
49. These cows are eating grass for their energy.
50. Animals possess specific characteristics to help them locate and eat food.
51. This marine iguana's body, for example, is designed to swim in the ocean where it eats algae.
52. And the neck of this giraffe allows it to eat the leaves of very tall trees.
53. Water is also critical to living things. Without water, living things could not exist.
54. Living things either live in water or they need to consume it to survive.
55. Just think about how often you consume water or things containing water every day.
56. **Graphic Transition – Need for Air**
57. How long can you hold your breath? After just a few seconds you will probably begin to want to gasp for air.
58. Many living things must take in air to survive.
59. Animals such as birds...

# Video Script

60. ...and mammals need oxygen, an important gas, which is found in air.
61. Even animals that live in water, such as fish, take in oxygen through their gills.
62. Oxygen is used by animals for a wide variety of body processes.
63. Other living things, like plants, take in a different gas which is found in air called carbon dioxide.
64. Many animals breathe out carbon dioxide, which plants take in.
65. **Graphic Transition – Need for Proper Temperature**
66. This is Death Valley, one of the hottest, driest places in North America.
67. This bird, called a road runner thrives in this desert environment.
68. **You Decide!** Why couldn't the road runner, live here in the Northeastern United States?
69. One reason is that the temperature in the Northeast in winter is too cold for the road runner to survive.
70. However, animals such as deer are able to survive here in the cold temperatures.
71. This deer can maintain a constant body temperature even in frigid conditions.
72. Homeostasis is the ability of a living thing to keep conditions inside its body the same, even though conditions in the environment may change.
73. **Graphic Transition – Summing Up**
74. During the past few minutes we have discussed some of the characteristics of living things,...
75. ...as well as the different needs of living things.
76. We saw that living things are made up of one or more cells.
77. Most living things also move, or have certain parts that move.
78. We discussed the fact that organisms grow and often change throughout the course of their lives.
79. Living things also carry out a wide variety of complex reactions that we broadly refer to as metabolism.
80. Most living things are capable of reacting to stimuli in their environment.
81. And the importance of reproduction for the continued existence of living things was stressed.
82. In order for living things to survive, they must fulfill certain needs.
83. Living space, also referred to as habitat, is one such need.
84. The need for food and water is common to all organisms.
85. Depending on the type of organism, different gases are consumed from the air to carry out certain functions.
86. Living things also require the proper temperature in order to survive.
87. So the next time you observe the plants...
88. ...and animals around your home, think about some of their characteristics...
89. ...and needs.
90. You might just think about life on Earth a little differently.

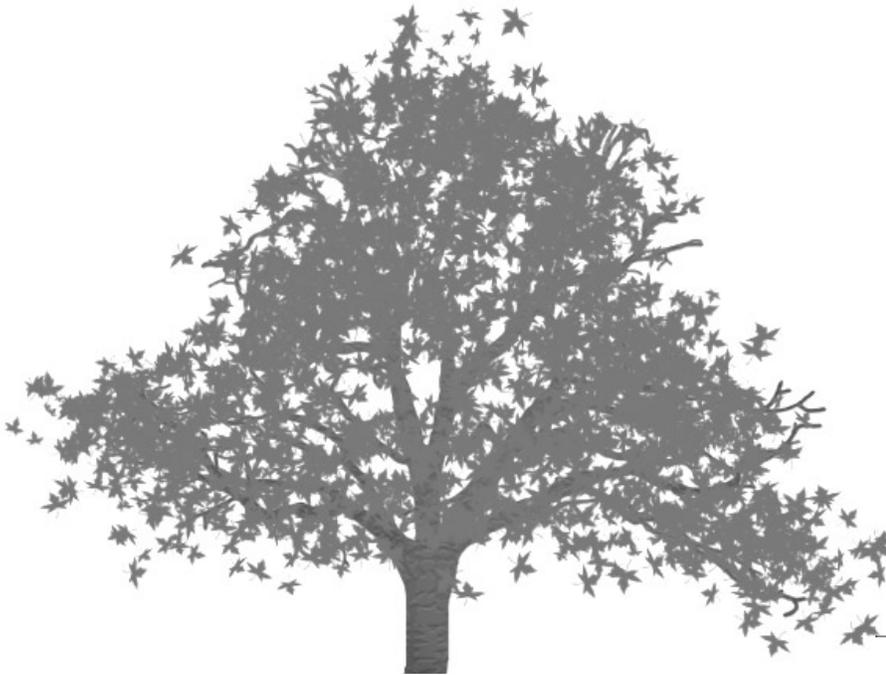
# Video Script

## 91. Graphic Transition – Video Assessment

Fill in the correct word to complete the sentence. Good luck and let's get started!

1. Living things are made up of one or more \_\_\_\_\_.
2. In order to survive, living things must fulfill certain \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the place where an organism lives.
4. Animals get energy by eating \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is a gas used by animals for many body processes.

Answers can be found on page 12.



# Answer Key to Student Assessments

## Pre-Test (p. 14-15)

1. c - cells
2. a - chemical reactions
3. d - stimuli
4. a - lives
5. b - energy
6. d - water
7. c - carbon dioxide
8. b - photosynthesis
9. d - compete
10. a - low temperatures
11. false
12. false
13. true
14. true
15. true
16. All living things are made up of one or more cells. Two other characteristics include movement and reproduction.
17. Student answers will vary. One example is an animal migrating.
18. Student answers will vary. One example is that the plants or trees growing nearby use the sun's energy and take in water to make their own food.
19. Plants take in a gas called carbon dioxide and give off oxygen. Animals breathe in oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide.
20. A squirrel would need a leafy tree in which to build its nest. Trees that produce nuts, such as walnuts, pecans, or hickory nuts, would need to be available as a food source.

## Post-Test (p. 16-17)

1. c - carbon dioxide
2. a - lives
3. c - cells
4. b - photosynthesis
5. d - stimuli
6. a - low temperatures
7. a - chemical reactions
8. d - water
9. b - energy
10. d - compete
11. true
12. true
13. false
14. false
15. true
16. Student answers will vary. One example is that the plants or trees growing nearby use the sun's energy and taken in water to make their own food.
17. A squirrel would need a leafy tree in which to build its nest. Trees that produce nuts, such as walnuts, pecans, or hickory nuts, would need to be available as a food source.
18. Plants take in a gas called carbon dioxide and give off oxygen. Animals breathe in oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide.
19. Student answers will vary. One example is an animal migrating.
20. All living things are made up of one or more cells. Two other characteristics include movement and reproduction.

## Video Review (p. 18)

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| 1. Some animals migrate seasonally to find a more suitable habitat in which it is easier for them to survive.                        | 1. cells   |
| 2. The cows are eating grass for their energy.   | 2. needs   |
| 3. The road runner could not live in the Northeastern United States because the temperature in winter is too cold for it to survive. | 3. habitat |
|  | 4. food    |
|  | 5. oxygen  |

# Answer Key to Student Activities

## Vocabulary (p. 19)

1. cells
2. metabolism
3. habitat
4. food
5. water
6. photosynthesis
7. oxygen
8. carbon dioxide
9. competition
10. homeostasis

## Writing Activity (p. 20)

All living things have certain basic **needs** and characteristics. Living things are made up of one or more **cells**. Living things also move, **grow**, and develop during their lives. The many chemical reactions conducted by living things are collectively referred to as **metabolism**. Organisms also give life to the same type of organism in the process of **reproduction**. One of the most important needs of living things is a place to live. **Habitat** refers to the place where an organism lives. Living things need to consume **food** and water to carry out body processes. Plants produce food from the sun's light in the process of **photosynthesis**. An organism must also take in **air** to carry out everyday functions. Living things also need the proper **temperature** range to survive.

## In Your Own Words (p. 20)

1. Living things are made up of one or more cells. Movement is another characteristic of most living things. Living things also grow and develop.
2. Our bodies need food everyday for energy. Water is also critical to living things. Without it, living things could not exist.
3. Student answers will vary depending upon the area where they live.

## Animal and Plant Needs (p. 21 – 22)

### Sunflower:

Water - the sunflower absorbs water from the ground through its roots.

Food - the sunflower creates its own food from the sun's energy in the process of photosynthesis.

Living space - the sunflower needs to grow in soil and have access to sunlight.

Temperature - sunflowers cannot survive in freezing temperatures.

### Giraffes:

Water - giraffes drink water through their mouths.

Food - giraffes use their mouths to eat plants.

Their long necks help them reach leaves that are high in trees.

Living space - giraffes are native to Africa.

They can live in savannas, grasslands, or open woodlands.

Temperature - giraffes live in warm climates.

## Your Needs (p. 23)

Student answers will vary. Sample answer for food: people need to eat food for energy; people meet this need by eating several nutritious meals every day; students may miss a meal when they are sick; people can starve to death if this need is not met.

## A Living Thing's Address (p. 25)

- Polar bear - habitat is cold and icy; Alaska (USA)
- Moose - forested areas in temperate to subarctic climates; New Brunswick (CAN)
- Iguana - hot, arid climates; Galapagos Islands
- Lobster - rocky bottoms of oceans; Maine (USA)
- Humpback whale - cold ocean water in the summer and warm ocean water in the winter; California (USA)
- Koala bear- area that is moist enough to support growth of trees, which koalas live in; Australia
- Humming bird - environments where flowering plants grow; throughout North America
- Cactus - arid, hot climates; Arizona (USA)
- Maple tree - temperate climate with moist soil; New Hampshire (USA)

# Pre-Test

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the best answer for each of the following questions.

- Living things are made up of one or more of the following:  
*a. rocks*                      *b. plants*                      *c. cells*                      *d. crustaceans*
- Metabolism is the term used to collectively describe the following in living things:  
*a. chemical reactions*   *b. photosynthesis*   *c. growth*                      *d. reproduction*
- Living things are capable of reacting to changes in their environment referred to as:  
*a. responses*                      *b. seasons*                      *c. tropisms*                      *d. stimuli*
- Habitat refers to the place an organism:  
*a. lives*                      *b. vacates*                      *c. abandons*                      *d. avoids*
- Animals eat food to provide their bodies with:  
*a. hair*                      *b. energy*                      *c. skin*                      *d. gases*
- Which of the following do all living things need to exist?  
*a. meat*                      *b. soil*                      *c. grass*                      *d. water*
- Animals breathe in oxygen, whereas plants take in the following essential gas:  
*a. methane*                      *b. carbon monoxide*   *c. carbon dioxide*   *d. oxygen*
- Plants produce their own food from the sun's energy in the following process:  
*a. respiration*                      *b. photosynthesis*   *c. circulation*                      *d. anaerobic respiration*
- When animals need the same resources, they often:  
*a. grow fat*                      *b. reproduce*                      *c. cooperate*                      *d. compete*
- One of the main reasons tropical plants cannot survive in the arctic is due to:  
*a. low temperatures*   *b. too much food*   *c. too much heat*   *d. too much moisture*

# Pre-Test

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Write true or false next to each statement.

- 11. \_\_\_\_\_ Most living things do not contain cells.
- 12. \_\_\_\_\_ Living things are not capable of reacting to changes in their environments.
- 13. \_\_\_\_\_ Living things often compete with each other for space and other resources.
- 14. \_\_\_\_\_ Animals must eat plants or other living things to obtain energy.
- 15. \_\_\_\_\_ Living things either live in water or need to consume it.

## Write a short answer for each of the following.

16. List three characteristics of living things.

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17. Describe a situation in which you or another living thing respond to a stimulus in the environment.

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18. Explain how a plant or animal near your home or school fulfills its need for food and water.

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19. Compare the important gases plants and animals breathe in and out.

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20. Explain the habitat needs of a squirrel.

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# Post-Test

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the best answer for each of the following questions.

- Animals breathe in oxygen, whereas plants take in the following essential gas:  
*a. methane*                      *b. carbon monoxide*    *c. carbon dioxide*    *d. oxygen*
- Habitat refers to the place an organism:  
*a. lives*                              *b. vacates*                      *c. abandons*                      *d. avoids*
- Living things are made up of one or more of the following:  
*a. rocks*                              *b. plants*                              *c. cells*                              *d. minerals*
- Plants produce their own food from the sun's energy in the following process:  
*a. respiration*                      *b. photosynthesis*                      *c. circulation*                      *d. anaerobic respiration*
- Living things are capable of reacting to changes in their environment referred to as:  
*a. responses*                      *b. seasons*                              *c. tropisms*                              *d. stimuli*
- One of the main reasons tropical plants cannot survive in the arctic is due to:  
*a. low temperatures*    *b. too much food*                      *c. too much heat*                      *d. too much moisture*
- Metabolism is the term used to collectively describe the following in living things:  
*a. chemical reactions*    *b. photosynthesis*                      *c. growth*                              *d. reproduction*
- Which of the following do all living things need to exist?  
*a. meat*                              *b. soil*                                      *c. grass*                              *d. water*
- Animals eat food to provide their bodies with:  
*a. hair*                                      *b. energy*                              *c. skin*                                      *d. gases*
- When animals need the same resources, they often:  
*a. grow fat*                              *b. reproduce*                              *c. cooperate*                              *d. compete*

# Post-Test

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Write true or false next to each statement.

- 11. \_\_\_\_\_ Living things often compete with each other for space and other resources.
- 12. \_\_\_\_\_ Living things either live in water or need to consume it.
- 13. \_\_\_\_\_ Living things are not capable of reacting to changes in their environments.
- 14. \_\_\_\_\_ Most living things do not contain cells.
- 15. \_\_\_\_\_ Animals must eat plants or other living things to obtain energy.

## Write a short answer for each of the following.

- 16. Explain how a plant or animal near your home or school fulfills its need for food and water.

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- 17. Explain the habitat needs of a squirrel.

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- 18. Compare the important gases plants and animals breathe in and out.

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- 19. Describe a situation in which you or another living thing respond to a stimulus in the environment.

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- 20. List three characteristics of living things.

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# Video Review

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**While you watch the video, answer these questions:**

## **You Decide!**

1. Why do some animals migrate seasonally?

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## **You Observe!**

2. What are these cows eating for energy?

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## **You Decide!**

3. Why couldn't the road runner live here in the Northeastern United States?

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**After you watch the video, test your knowledge with these questions.**

1. Living things are made up of one or more \_\_\_\_\_.
2. In order to survive living things must fulfill certain \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the place where an organism lives.
4. Animals get energy by eating \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is a gas used by animals for many body processes.

# Vocabulary

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Use these words to fill in the blanks next to the sentences below.

Words	carbon dioxide	water	metabolism	food	photosynthesis
	homeostasis	cells	habitat	oxygen	competition

- \_\_\_\_\_ The basic building blocks of life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The sum of the chemical reactions in a living thing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The place where an organism lives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The substance from which living things derive energy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Liquid that living things need to survive.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Process by which plants produce food and oxygen from the sun's energy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A gas that animals breathe in and use for a wide variety of body processes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A gas that animals exhale and plants use in the process of photosynthesis.
- \_\_\_\_\_ This can occur when animals need the same resources.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The ability of a living thing to keep conditions inside its body stable.

# Writing Activity

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Words	photosynthesis	grow	temperature	food	metabolism
	air	reproduction	needs	habitat	cells

Use the correct word from above to complete the sentences in the following paragraph.

All living things have certain basic \_\_\_\_\_ and characteristics. Living things are made up of one or more \_\_\_\_\_. Living things also move, \_\_\_\_\_, and develop during their lives. The many chemical reactions conducted by living things are collectively referred to as \_\_\_\_\_. Organisms also give life to the same type of organism in the process of \_\_\_\_\_. One of the most important needs of living things is a place to live. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the place where an organism lives. Living things need to consume \_\_\_\_\_ and water to carry out body processes. Plants produce food from the sun's light in the process of \_\_\_\_\_. An organism must also take in \_\_\_\_\_ to carry out everyday functions. Living things also need the proper \_\_\_\_\_ range to survive.

## In Your Own Words

1. Describe three characteristics of living things.

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2. What are some needs your body must meet everyday?

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3. Describe the habitat needs of an animal in your neighborhood.

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# Animal and Plant Needs

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Background:** Every living thing has certain basic characteristics and needs. One basic characteristic is that all living things are made up of one or more cells. Another characteristic is that most living things move. Complex chemical reactions, collectively referred to as metabolism, enable living things to grow, store energy, and repair damaged cells. Another characteristic of living things is that they react to changes in their environment, referred to as stimuli. A final common characteristic of living things is that they have the ability to reproduce. Reproduction is the process by which living things give life to the same type of living thing.

Living things also have certain things they need in order to survive. Living organisms need a place to live, food and water, air, and proper temperature. Plants and animals meet these needs in different ways. For example, animals obtain food by eating plants or other animals. Plants use energy from the sun to make their own food in a process called photosynthesis. Also, animals inhale oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide, while plants take in carbon dioxide and give off oxygen. In this activity, you will compare how plants and animals meet their needs.

**Instructions:** Explain how plants and animals meet each type of need on the following page.



# Animal and Plant Needs

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Fill in the space below each picture to explain how plants and animals meet the different types of needs.



Water: \_\_\_\_\_

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Food: \_\_\_\_\_

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Living Space: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proper temperature: \_\_\_\_\_

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Water: \_\_\_\_\_

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Food: \_\_\_\_\_

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Living Space: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proper temperature: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Your Needs

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Background:** All living things have certain things they need in order to survive, and that includes you! Just like plants and animals, people need food, water, air, proper temperature, and living space in order to survive.

**Activity:** Fill in the chart below to explain why each need is important, how you meet that need, a situation in which the need has not been met, and what can happen if the need is not met over a long period of time.

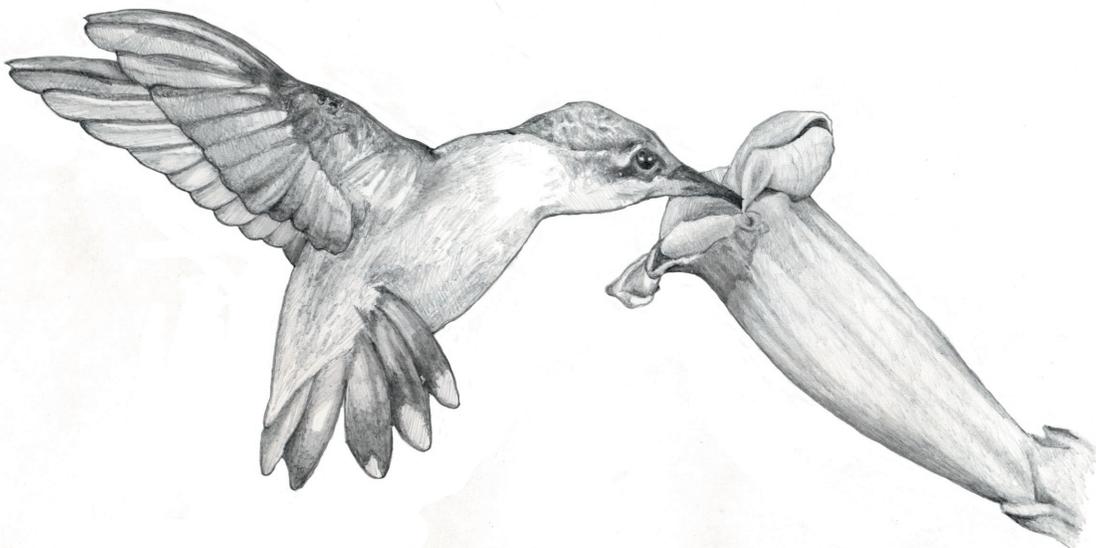
Need	Importance of need	How need is met	A case when need hasn't been met	Consequence of need not being met
Food				
Water				
Air				
Proper temperature				
Living Space				

# A Living Thing's Address

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Background:** All living things must have a place to live in order to survive. Habitat refers to the place where an organism lives. For example, your habitat is the house or apartment that you live in, which helps to keep you safe and protect you from the weather. Your neighborhood, town, or city can also be considered your habitat. While all living things need space to live, the type of space they need can be very different. For example, a snail needs a very small place to live. However, an elephant needs a large area to roam. Also, a cactus needs to live in a warm place, while a moose can live in a place that is warm in the summer and cold in the winter. Some animals migrate seasonally to a new environment when the environment in which they live changes. They migrate to find a more suitable habitat to make it easier for them to survive. For example, many birds migrate to a warmer climate when temperatures begin to get colder as winter approaches. In this activity, you will learn about the types of habitats of different living organisms.

**Activity:** There are several different living things listed in the chart on the following page. For each living thing, describe the characteristics of its habitat and give an example of a place where that type of environment can be found. Remember, some living things migrate to new habitats based on changes in the environment, so you may need to list more than one habitat.



# A Living Thing's Address

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Living Thing	Characteristics of Habitat(s)	Example of Habitat Location
Polar bear		
Moose		
Iguana		
Lobster		
Humpback whale		
Koala bear		
Hummingbird		
Cactus		
Maple tree		
You		