



[▶ Link to Video](#)

LESSON PLAN

LIVING VS NON-LIVING THINGS GRADES K-2

SUMMARY

Students use knowledge of the characteristics of living things to categorize objects as living or non-living.
Duration: 15-25 minutes.



K-LS1-1. Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.

Science & Engineering Practices

Analyzing and Interpreting Data

Analyzing data in K-2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to collecting, recording and sharing observations.

Use observations (firsthand or from media) to describe patterns in the natural world in order to answer scientific questions. (K-LS1-1)

Connections to Classroom Activity

- Students will analyze different pictures to classify them as either living or non-living.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

LS1.C: Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms

All animals need food in order to live and grow. They obtain their food from plants or from other animals. Plants need water and light to live and grow. (K-LS1-1)

Connections to Classroom Activity

- Students distinguish between what living things need to survive (nutrients, water, growth, reproduction) versus non-living things which do not need anything to survive since they are not, and have never been, alive.

Crosscutting Concepts

Connections to Classroom Activity

Patterns

Patterns in the natural and human designed world can be observed and used as evidence. (K-LS1-1)

- The students observe that living and non-living things have different structures and functions.



ENGAGE

Show students your pet rock. Tell them his/her name and that you have a little bed for him/her in a box. Ask students, “What do you think I should feed my pet rock?” or “Does my pet rock need food to survive?” This will hopefully lead to the idea that the rock is not actually alive; it’s just a pretend pet. Segue to the lesson by telling students they will be exploring living and non-living things by classifying pictures into non-living or living.

MATERIALS

- Pet rock
- 2 Hula hoops
- 2 Large labels (living things and non-living)
- Set of pictures of living and non-living things

DIY Activity (per group)

- Clipboard with paper
- Pencil
- Nature area like a garden, park, backyard, etc.



EXPLORE

Steps

- 1) Place two hula hoops on the floor next to each other.
- 2) Label one “living” and the other with “non-living.”
- 3) Give each student in your class a picture of one of the living or non-living things you have printed and cut out.
- 4) Have each student place their picture inside what they believe is the correct hula hoop.
- 5) Gather your students in a circle around the two hula hoops.
- 6) Ask the students if any of the pictures need to be switched to a different location. If so, have them explain what needs to be switched and why.



EXPLAIN

Have a few students share why they chose to place their picture where they did. Explain that to tell if something is living or non-living we have to ask ourselves three questions...

Does it grow? Does it get bigger over time?

Does it need nutrients? That means taking in things like food and water.

Does it reproduce? That means making more of it.

Go through these questions and make a conclusion with a few of the items your class selects from inside the hoops.



WATCH THE GENERATION GENIUS LIVING VS. NON-LIVING THINGS VIDEO AS A GROUP

Then facilitate using the Discussion Questions.



ELABORATE

Go on a nature walk around the school and have student identify living and non-living things with their new understanding. Students could bring a clip board and paper to record their observations through pictures or words by splitting the paper into the two columns of living and non-living.



EVALUATE

Students can play the online Kahoot! quiz game located below the video which provides downloadable scores at the end of the quiz game. Alternatively, you can use the paper quiz or the exit ticket questions. All these resources are located below the video in the Assessment section.



EXTENSION

For older or more advanced students you could introduce the vocabulary biotic and abiotic. Biotic means living or once living, so this can include dead trees or leaves. Abiotic means not living and never was living. These vocabulary words are generally introduced in higher grades.

Read the book *Living or Non-living* by Kelli Hicks. *What's Alive* by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld is also highly recommended.





SNAKE



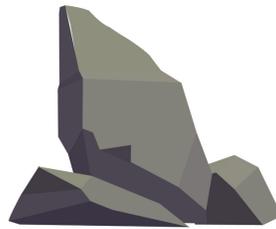
SCISSORS



BUTTERFLY



DOG



STONE



TREE



WATER



SEAWEED



CAR



FISH



PELICAN



BOOK



SPOON



COMPUTER



MANTIS



HOUSE



FROG



GLOBE



CAT



PENCIL



PARROT



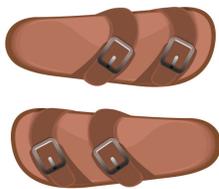
SNAIL



CATERPILLAR



KEY



SHOES



POT



CACTUS