

# Read About Living vs. Non-Living Things

## DEFINITION OF LIVING THINGS

Living things have three main traits: They grow, take in nutrients (that means food and water), and reproduce (which means they make more living things like themselves). Non-living things do not grow, need nutrients or reproduce.

*To better understand living vs non-living things...*

## LET'S BREAK IT DOWN!

### Living things grow.

An animal, such as a kitten, gets bigger and bigger and becomes a full-grown cat. A plant, such as a flower, starts from a seed and grows taller and taller. A non-living thing, like a rock, doesn't grow.



### Living things need food and water.

In science we say that they take in nutrients. An animal, like a kitten, takes in food and water through its mouth. A plant, like a tree, takes in nutrients through its roots and leaves. A non-living thing does not take in nutrients.

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## Living things reproduce.

A mother cat and a father cat will make more cats. Plants also reproduce. They start from a seed, grow, and then produce seeds of their own. Non-living things do not reproduce.



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## There are many living things on Earth.

Living things include kittens, fish, birds, insects and even people. They all have something in common: they grow, need nutrients and they reproduce!

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## Plants are also living things.

Plants are living because they grow, take in nutrients and reproduce. Trees, bushes, a cactus, flowers and grass are examples of plants.



## LIVING VS. NON-LIVING VOCABULARY

**Living** An organism (animal or plant) that grows, takes in nutrients, and reproduces.

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**Non-living** An object that does not grow, take in nutrients, or reproduce.

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**Nutrients** A substance that provides nourishment for growth and making energy.

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**Reproduce** To make another organism (animal or plant) like the first organism.

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**Dead**

Something that was once living, but is no longer alive.

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**Food**

A substance a living thing can take in to get energy and to help it grow.

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## **QUESTIONS ABOUT LIVING VS. NON-LIVING THINGS**

### **What do we mean when we say something grows?**

When something grows it changes and usually gets bigger as it grows.

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### **What do we mean by the word 'nutrients'?**

Nutrients are the things that living things need in order to grow, like food and water.

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### **What do we mean when we say something reproduces?**

When something reproduces it makes more of itself. For example, mammals have live babies, birds and reptiles lay eggs, and plants make seeds which grow into new plants.

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### **Name some examples of living things.**

Some examples of living things are dogs, chickens, frogs, trees, roses, etc.

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### **Name some examples of non-living things.**

Some examples of non-living things are plates, tables, lamps, etc.

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### **Is a dead cockroach living or non-living?**

Neither, a dead cockroach was once living, but is no longer alive. A non-living object has never been alive.

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