

Distinguishing Living and Nonliving Things

READ ALOUD PASSAGE

Most things in our world can be sorted into three groups. The first group is living things, which scientists also call biological things. The second group is natural nonliving things, which are things that come from the Earth but are not alive. The third group is human-made things, which are things that people have built or created.

Living things grow, reproduce, need food or energy, and respond to the world around them. Dogs, trees, mushrooms, and people are all living things. Rocks, water, air, and soil are natural nonliving things. They come from the Earth, but they do not grow or reproduce on their own. Tables, cars, and plastic bags are human-made. People made them from natural materials.

Some things can be tricky to sort. A dead leaf was once living, so it used to belong in the living group. A wooden table is made from a natural material called wood, but a person built it, so it belongs in the human-made group. A bird's nest is made from natural materials by an animal, not a human, so it belongs in the natural category.

Asking good questions helps us sort things correctly. Is it alive? Did a person make it? Did it come from the Earth on its own?

Activity 1: Word Hunt

Look back at the reading. Find four nouns and write them on the lines.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Activity 2: Statement or Question?

Read each sentence. Write S if it is a statement or Q if it is a question. Then add the correct end mark on the line.

- ☐ 1. Is a rock a living thing ____
- ☐ 2. A bird's nest is natural ____
- ☐ 3. Did a person make the table ____
- ☐ 4. Living things grow and reproduce ____

Activity 3: Grow a Sentence

This sentence is very short. Answer each question to add more information. Then put your answers together into one longer sentence.

START WITH THIS SENTENCE **Trees grow.**

When?

Where?

Why?

Write your expanded sentence:

Activity 4: Sentence or Not?

Read each one out loud. Write S if it is a complete sentence. Write F if it is only part of a sentence. Then fix each F so it is a complete sentence.

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1. Trees are living things.

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2. Made by a person.

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3. Rocks do not grow.

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4. From sticks and mud.

First fragment, rewritten:

Second fragment, rewritten:
