

Questacon at HOME

Year 3 Activity Sheet

Living Things

Have you ever wondered what makes something **alive**? Why are plants alive but not rocks? How can we tell if something is alive by looking at it? In this activity sheet, we are going to test your knowledge on what makes a **living thing**.

ACTIVITY

Study your pet or your favourite animal and make a list of traits it shares with you (you can draw a picture of the animal too if you like):

Me

Pet

Do you both breathe? Does it react when you touch it, just like you might react if someone touched you? Does it eat food? Does it go to the toilet?

Life Processes

All living things share a list of characteristics that define them as living. These are called **life processes**.

Can you list the life processes using the acronym **MRS GREN** on the next page?



Activity sheet – Living Things

Q1. MRS GREN

M _____
R _____
S _____
G _____
R _____
E _____
N _____

To be 'living', you need to **move**, to breathe (called **respiration**), to be **sensitive** to the environment (e.g. if it's hot, you don't touch it), to **grow**, to **excrete** waste (for humans, that means going to the toilet), to **reproduce** (have children), and need **nutrition** for energy.

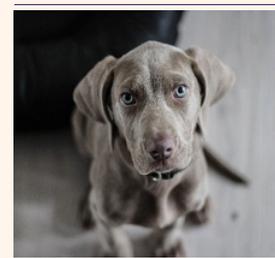
Q2. Thinking about 'MRS GREN', what is not a living thing? Check the box.

- A sunflower
- Bacteria
- A dog
- A rock

Q3. Have you ever touched a seatbelt after the car was sitting in the sun on a really hot day? Did you jerk your hand back when it burnt you? What is this process called?

- Sensitivity
- Excretion
- Growth
- Movement

Q4. In the following pictures, label which ones are living and nonliving.



Q5. When we eat something, it does not automatically become energy. What is the process that turns food into energy?

- Excretion
- Growth
- Nutrition
- Movement



Living Things – Answers

What makes something a 'living' thing?

Q1. MRS GREN

Movement/Move, Respiration, Sensitivity/sensitive, Growth/grow, Reproduce, Excrete, Nutrition

Q2. Thinking about 'MRS GREN', what is not a living thing?

A rock – rocks do not follow the life processes list, so it cannot be classified as a living thing.

Q3. Have you ever touched a seatbelt after the car was sitting in the sun on a really hot day? Did you jerk your hand back when it burnt you? What is this process called?

Sensitivity - living things need to react to changes in heat and light or possible threats in order to survive. You don't want to get burnt, so your natural reaction is to jerk your hand away from the heat.

Q4. In the following pictures, label which ones are living and nonliving.

Sunflower – Living

Rocks – Nonliving

Dog – Living

Q5. When we eat something, it does not automatically become energy. What is the process that turns food into energy?

Nutrition – Nutrition is how living things make their energy from food. For plants this involves turning sunlight into energy through photosynthesis, and for animals it is transforming food into energy through digestion. Yummy!

Next time you go for a walk, try looking around you and spotting which things are living and which are not.

