

LIVING AND NON-LIVING THINGS / LESSON OVERVIEW

Objectives

The students will:

- Learn the characteristics of living and non-living things.
- Learn how to differentiate between living and non-living things.
- Collect evidence and use newly learned information to decide whether something is living or non-living.

Lesson Summary

Part 1. Introduction (5-10 minutes)

In science, a living thing is anything that is or has ever been alive. This means that even dead things are classified as living things because they were alive at one point. A non-living thing is anything that is not now nor has ever been alive. **Part 1.**

Part 2. Characteristics of Living and Non-Living Things (15-20 minutes)

All living things have the same seven characteristics. Some non-living things may have one or two of these characteristics, but not all. For something to be living it has to have all seven characteristics of a living thing. We will use a shark (living thing) and a beach ball (non-living thing) as examples as we dive further into each of these characteristics.

Part 3. Review (10-15 minutes)

Now that the students know the seven characteristics that describe a living thing, we will review some of our original examples and learn how to classify something as living or non-living.

Activity 1. Outside Observations (20 – 30 minutes)

Now that students understand the difference between living and non-living things, they will head outside to observe different things and determine if they are living or non-living.

Activity 2. Picture Classification (20 – 30 minutes)

To help demonstrate their knowledge of living and non-living things, students will now classify a variety of things as living or non-living by viewing pictures and sorting them into categories. Students will present their findings to the class or to small groups in order to verify they have classified correctly.

Materials

- Notebooks
- Pencils
- Flashlights (optional)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Magnifying glasses (optional)
- Assorted kid-friendly magazines, catalogs, and/or newspaper.
- Poster board
- Markers
- Scissors
- Glue or tape