

INVESTIGATION QUESTION

Can the seven characteristics of life clearly separate all living things from nonliving things, or are there edge cases?

HYPOTHESIS

Hint: try writing it as "If _____, then _____, because _____."

Station Observation Table

Object	Characteristics It Has	Characteristics It Lacks	Your Classification
Candle			
Plant			
Rock			
Toy/Fan			
Yeast			
Bread/Mushroom			

ANALYSIS

Which object was hardest to classify? What characteristic made it tricky?

CONCLUSION

Is the seven-characteristics definition of life perfect? What edge cases does it struggle with?

CONNECT IT

Research whether viruses are considered alive by scientists. Write a 2-3 sentence argument for one side of the debate, using the characteristics of life as your evidence.

THINK FURTHER

If scientists discovered something on another planet that met only 5 of the 7 characteristics, would you call it alive? Where would you draw the line, and why?

ADDITIONAL NOTES