

**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**

<b>Object</b>	<b>Characteristics It Has</b>	<b>Characteristics It Lacks</b>	<b>Your Classification</b>
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**