

Distinguishing Living and Nonliving Things

READ ALOUD PASSAGE

Everything in our world can be placed into one of 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

Because / But / So Complete each sentence three different ways.

Everything in our world can be placed into one of three groups because

Everything in our world can be placed into one of three groups but

Everything in our world can be placed into one of three groups so

Activity 2

Turn each fragment into a complete sentence.

1. grows, reproduces, and needs food or energy

2. made by people from natural materials

Activity 3

Put the words in the correct order to make a complete sentence. Add correct capitalization and punctuation.

1. is / dog / living / a / thing / it / because / grows / reproduces / and / a

2. human-made / tables / are / cars / because / and / people / built / them

Activity 4

Read each statement. Write two questions that could be answered by the statement.

STATEMENT Without bees you wouldn't have any honey, so honey is a biological material.

Question 1:

Question 2:

STATEMENT A wooden table is made from wood, but a person built it, so it is considered human-made.

Question 1:

Question 2:
