



Basic Needs of Living Things

Field Investigation Activity Lesson Plans & Resources

Online Lesson Plans & Resources available on the Alabama Wildlife Federation website

Background Information (online as a PDF)

Patterns in the natural world can be observed and used as **evidence** when distinguishing between living and nonliving things and when determining the needs of living things.

In order to survive, **all** living things need air, water, and food.

Animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, which provides them with the energy they need to move and grow.

An animal's home (**habitat**) must provide these basic needs (air, water and food) along with shelter from bad weather and predators.

Plants also need air, water, and food, but they don't have mouths to breathe, drink or eat.

Plants "breathe" air through tiny holes on the underside of their leaves.

Plants "drink" water and "eat" their food (**nutrients**) from soil using their roots.

They also make food in their leaves using sunlight and energy from the sun, which helps them grow.

