



Basic Needs of Living Things

Field Investigation Activity Lesson Plans & Resources

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

Students will explore the basic needs of plants and animals and determine if a specific plant and/or animal's basic needs are met in the school's habitat lab.

Example Discussion Questions & Answers (online as a PowerPoint or PDF)

Q: How do you know if something is a living thing?

A: *Living things move, grow and change over time. For example, an animal like a butterfly or a plant like a daisy are both living things.*

Q: What are other differences between living and nonliving things?

A: *A living thing needs to eat, drink & breathe, or it will die. A nonliving thing cannot die—it is not alive.*

Q: What types of living things could we see in our habitat lab?

A: *We could see animals such as birds, chipmunks, bees, frogs, etc. We could also see plants like grass, trees, shrubs, flowers, etc. (Make sure they list native animals that they can see in your habitat lab—for instance, not sharks or giraffes. Plants do not have to be listed by a specific name.)*

Q: What are the basic needs of animals? What do they need to survive?

A: *Animals need food to eat, water to drink, air to breathe, shelter to hide in, and places to raise their young.*

Q: What do animals eat? Why do animals need to eat?

A: *Animals eat plants and other animals. When an animal eats, its body converts the food into energy. Animals need energy to move and grow.*

Q: What are the basic needs of plants? What do they need to survive?

A: *Plants need water, food and nutrients, air and sunlight, and a home or place to live.*

Q: How does a plant get the air, water, and food that it needs to survive since it doesn't have a mouth?

A: *Plants breathe through tiny holes on the underside of their leaves. Plants “drink” water and food (nutrients) from soil using their roots. They also make their “food” in their leaves using sunlight from the sun.*

