



Living or Nonliving?

Habitat Lab Field Journal Activity Lesson Plans & Resources

Online Lesson Plans & Resources: <https://alabamawildlife.org/field-investigation-living-or-nonliving/>

Background Information

A **living thing** is classified as alive because it needs energy to move, grow and change over time.

Examples are plants (like grass, flowers, and trees) and animals (like birds, insects, and humans).

Both plants and animals need food, water, and air in order to survive. They must eat, drink and breath to survive, or they will die.

Plants can make their own food using sunlight, water and air, and they can get **nutrients** (food) from the soil through their roots. Animals obtain their food from plants and other animals.

Most animals eat, drink and breathe using their mouths, while plants “drink” water and food through their roots, and they breathe through tiny holes on the underside of their leaves.

If something that was living dies, you can refer to it as “**dead**” or as “nonliving”. Examples include a dead tree limb or a dead insect on the ground.

A **nonliving thing** does not move, grow or change over time by itself.

It does not require food, water or air because it is not alive.

If it does change, the change takes place due to outside forces such as rain causing a chair to rust or a student sharpening their pencil.

Examples of nonliving things include natural resources like water, rocks, or air and manmade products such as furniture, peanut butter, or clothing.

