

Living and non-living God is Creator / God is Life

This unit of study has been designed for use in conjunction with the Beacon Media resource:

Themes for Christian Studies: God is Life Levels 1 & 2.

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Living or non-living?

Activity Sheet 1: Living things

For reading or listening:

What do you like most about God's creation?

the animals, the plants?...

or do you like the powerful forces of creation like the thunder and lightning, the sea, the mountains?

God's creation can be grouped into two types of things...**living things and non-living things.**

We can also make two more groups...**the things that God made and the things that man has made.** Of course we must remember that man can only make things out of the materials that God has provided.

What is a living thing?

(Definition)

Every living thing must be able to do these things, or it is not living:

1. move by itself
2. grow
3. get food and use food
4. create new beings like themselves. (reproduce)

Activity Sheet 2: Animals

Let's look at animals.

All animals can move. In fact God gave animals legs, wings and fins to move with. Think about worms and snakes. How do they move?

What is an animal?

Is a fish an animal? _____

Is an insect an animal? _____

Is a bacteria an animal? _____

Yes, these are all animals.

All of these can move, grow, get and eat food, and reproduce.

Is a human being an animal?

If we look at the definition of a living thing, we would say that a human being *is* an animal. However, God said that human beings were created to be more important than any other animal. A human being is not an animal, even though we fit the definition. We can do things that animals cannot do. We can love God. We can talk to God. We can give our lives to God and follow Him. An animal cannot do this. God has told us that we must take care of the animals.

What can humans do that animals cannot do?

Activity Sheet 3: Plants

Let's look at plants.

What is a plant?

Is a plant always green? _____

Is a mushroom a plant? _____

Can you find plants underwater? _____

Can a plant move? _____

Yes, it moves when it grows, or when a flower opens.

Can a plant get food and use food? _____

A plant doesn't have a mouth. It doesn't chew food. However it does make its own food out of sunlight and air. It uses carbon dioxide from the air, and with the sunlight, makes its own food.

If you have seen sap from a tree, or the liquid in the stems of plants, then you have seen plant food. This is the sugary food that the plant has made for itself to keep itself alive. The plant uses sunlight and makes food in its green parts. As the plant makes food, it produces oxygen. Oxygen is helpful to people and animals, who breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide. Plants and animals need one another. God designed it that way.

What do plants need to make food? _____

Which part of the plant makes food? _____

What does the plant give off when it makes food? _____

Why is oxygen useful?

Activity Sheet 4: Quiz

Write the answers to these:

What is a living thing?

What do animals need to stay alive?

What do plants need to stay alive?

What do plants need to make their own food?

Animals do not make their own food. How do they get it?

How do people get their food?

Activity Sheet 5: Non-living

For reading or listening:

Non-living things...
do not breathe
do not use food
do not reproduce

Is a rock living? _____

Is water living? _____

Is lightning a living thing? _____

Is air living? _____

No. None of these things are living, but God made them all. God knew exactly what living things needed when He created the earth.

He created air for us to breathe, water for us to drink, heat and electricity for us to use, gravity, magnetic fields, rocks and soil.

Living things live in non-living things. Write the answers...

What living things can you find in the soil?

.....
What living things can you find in pond water?

.....
What living things can you find in the sea?

.....
Do you live in something that is non-living?

.....

Activity Sheet 6: Non-living things that were once living

We would say that God made a flower, but we may not say that God made perfume. We would say that perfume is man made. However, man has made perfume from something that God made. That is, a flower.

A flower is living

Perfume is non-living

Finish the sentence

Here are some more non-living things that were once living. They are all made out of things that God made. Finish these sentences:

Leather is made from.....

Paper is made from

Bricks are made from.....

Woolen clothes are made from.....

Cotton clothes are made from.....

Sausages are made from.....

Activity Sheet 7: Man made things from non-living materials

People make things from non-living things too. Rock and soil contain many minerals. Minerals are things like metals, crystals and precious stones.

Did you know that glass is made from sand?

Plastic is also made from minerals.

Make a list of some items in your home that are made from non-living materials.

Draw pictures of some of the non-living things that God has made

Activity Sheet 8: Living or non-living quiz

PART A

Take a sheet of paper. Draw a line down the middle. On one side make a list of **living things**. On the other side, make a list of **non-living things**.

Here are some to sort out. Add some of your own too.

plants, sheep, paper, fresh apples, sausages, glass, plastic, salt, sugar, rocks, bacteria, fish, birds, insects, honey, metal, plates

PART B

Take another sheet of paper and draw a line down the middle once again. This time make two different lists: **Once living** on one side and **now living** on the other side. Here are some things to sort out. Add some of your own too:

bread, fresh bananas, beef, cattle, grass, perfume, fresh potatoes, potato crisps, wooden chair, cotton, flowers

Activity Sheet 9: Game...animal, vegetable, mineral

Play this game:

Someone thinks of an object...any object. The other person has to guess what the object is, and may ask questions that require the answers, 'yes' or 'no'.

For example:

Is it red?

The first three questions to try will be...

Is it animal? Is it vegetable? Is it mineral?

If the answer is animal, the object may be a living animal, or it could have been made out of an animal.

If the answer is vegetable, it could be a plant, or it could be made out of a plant.

So, to find out which one of these it is, **the next two questions should be...**

'Is it living?' 'Is it non-living?'

Keep asking questions until you have guessed the object. The person who guesses with the least number of questions is the winner.

Make a collection

Set up two tables. On one table, collect non-living things from God's creation. On the other table collect living things from God's creation. You may like to set up a worm farm, an ant farm, or an aquarium. Make a note book and describe the things on your tables. You can press plants to keep them for longer, or you can put them in water.