



Year 3 Mad Microscopes - Is It Living?

TEACHER REFERENCE GUIDE

The world we live in is made up of both living and non-living things, and scientists have clear ways to tell the difference between the two. The term **LIVING THING** refers to things that are or were once alive. A **NON-LIVING THING** is anything that was never alive.

For something to be living it must satisfy 7 key conditions.

MRS GREN HELPS US REMEMBER: ALL LIVING THINGS WILL SHOW EVIDENCE OF...

MOVEMENT RESPIRATION (GAS EXCHANGE) SENSITIVITY (RESPOND TO ENVIRONMENT)
GROWTH REPRODUCTION EXCRETION (WASTE REMOVAL) NUTRITION (CONSUME FOOD)

A **LIVING THING** will fulfil EVERY condition listed above. If it only fulfils SOME of these conditions, then it is classed as **NON-LIVING**.

Complete the table by placing a tick or a cross to record whether these examples show evidence of being **LIVING THINGS**.

Does it...?	CAR	ELEPHANT
MOVE	✓	✓
RESPIRE- EXCHANGE GASES	✓	✓
SENSE THE ENVIRONMENT	✓	✓
GROW	X	✓
REPRODUCE	X	✓
EXCRETE WASTES	✓	✓
CONSUME NUTRITION	✓	✓
<i>LIVING or NON-LIVING?</i>	NON-LIVING	LIVING



Things that were once alive are also classified as **LIVING THINGS** when thinking scientifically. A leaf that has fallen on the ground is still a **LIVING THING** as it was once part of something which showed evidence of being alive (a tree). Things that showed evidence of being alive but are not anymore have a special category - **ONCE WAS LIVING**. A rock was never alive, or part of something that was, so it is a **NON-LIVING THING**.