

Nova's Guide to Living Things

Learning objective: To identify and describe the functions of different parts of living things and understand the characteristics of life.

Read the text carefully. Use the word bank to help you understand the tricky words. Answer the questions in the spaces provided.

Nova the barn owl loves to watch the forest at night. She knows that all living things share special characteristics. Whether it is a tall oak tree or a tiny beetle, they all need to stay alive. First, every living thing needs energy. Plants make their own food using sunlight, while animals like Nova eat other living things to get their nutrients. Second, all living things grow and change over time. A small sprout grows into a large tree, and a fluffy owlet grows into a wise owl. They also respond to their environment. A plant turns its leaves toward the sun, and an animal hides if it feels scared. Finally, living things reproduce to make sure their species continues. Nova keeps a close eye on the forest floor. She knows that every creature, from the smallest bug to the biggest fox, plays a vital role in the cycle of life. By looking at these patterns, Nova understands how the world works. Everything living is connected in a wonderful, busy web of nature.

Word bank: Environment: The place where a plant or animal lives. · Characteristics: Special features that show something is alive. · Nutrients: Good things in food that help living things grow. · Respiration: How living things get energy from food.

1. According to the text, how do plants get their energy? (Literal) (2 marks)

2. Name two things that all living things do to show they are alive. (Literal) (2 marks)

3. Why might an animal hide when it feels scared? (Inferential) (2 marks)

4. Why is it important for living things to reproduce? (Inferential) (2 marks)

5. Nova says everything is connected. Do you agree? Explain your answer. (Evaluative) (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Nova the owl in her forest home. Include one plant and one other animal to show a mini-environment.



Extension challenge: Pick one animal you see in your garden or a park. Write two sentences about what it needs to survive.