

Chapter  
**1**

## LIVING VS. NONLIVING

**L**iving things are both similar to and different from each other and from nonliving things. The world around us is made up of both living and nonliving things. Living things depend upon each other and the nonliving environment to survive.

Animals and plants are living things. They have basic needs (necessities) in order to survive. We often say that living things (**organisms**) are alive.

### I. CLASSIFICATION OF LIVING THINGS

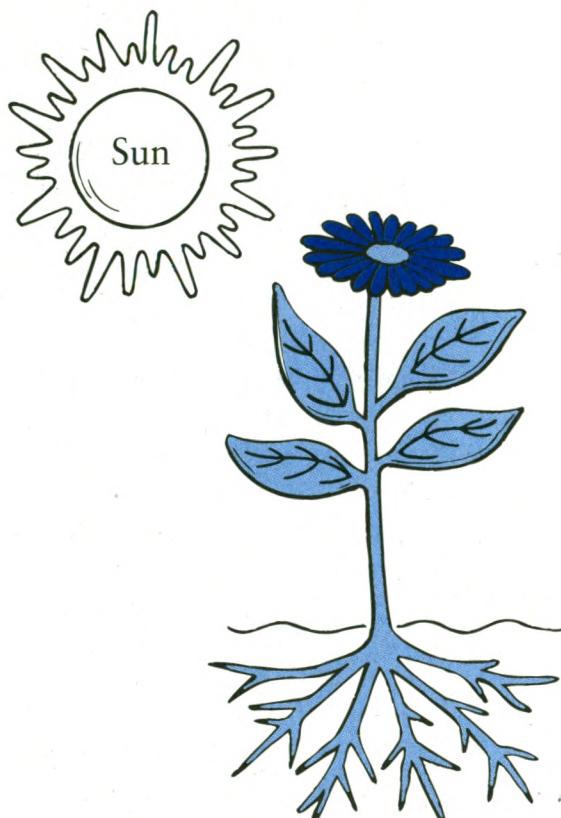
Animals need **air**, **water**, and **food** to live and survive.

- Animals take in air by breathing. They need **oxygen**, which is in the air. Oxygen allows the animal to make and use **energy**, which it needs to survive.
- Animals also need water to survive. Water is used to break down and move materials throughout the body.
- Animals cannot make their own food so they must eat to get **nutrients**. Nutrients are necessary for growth and energy.

Plants need air, water, nutrients, and light to live and survive.

- Plants take in air through their leaves. The type of air that plants take in and use is **carbon dioxide**. This is necessary for the plant to create food. Plants make their own food by a process called **photosynthesis**.
- Water is used by the plant to move materials up from the roots to make food.
- Nutrients from the soil enter the plant through its roots. Nutrients are necessary for the plant to survive.
- Light is one of the most important things for a plant. Light gives the plant the energy it needs to survive.

If the living organism does not get the air, water, food, nutrients, or light it needs to survive it will die.



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Plants need air, water, nutrients, and light to live and survive.

**Practice**

**A.** List three things that you need to live and survive:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**B.** Circle the items in the diagram below that are nonliving and place an “X” over those that are living.



**C.** Water helps living things survive by

- a. bringing in gases.
- b. keeping them clean.
- c. creating food.
- d. moving materials.