

# Living and Non-living

---

There are many objects in the world around us. Some of them are living. Some of them are non-living. Living things are alive.

**A squirrel is living.**



People, animals, and plants are living things

**A chair is non-living.**



Rocks, furniture, and toys are non-living

## Living things can do things that non-living things cannot do.

- **All living things grow:** The children in our class grow. A baby bird grows. An acorn can grow into a tree. Each of these things can grow because they are living. Non-living things, such as a lamp or a mailbox, cannot grow.
- **All living things can make more of their kind:** A stallion and a mare can make a baby horse called a foal. The seeds from a flower can make more plants. A sandwich cannot make more sandwiches.
- **All living things can move by themselves:** A frog hops, a fish swims, a snake slithers, a bird flies, and people walk. Plants can move but do so very slowly. They can turn their leaves towards the sun. Non-Living things cannot move all by themselves. A ball can only move if someone kicks it. A pebble can only move if someone picks it up and puts it somewhere else.
- **All living things need food, air, and water to live:** Chipmunks eat berries and nuts. Children eat fruits and vegetables for snack. Plants use their leaves to make their own food. Squirrels, children, and plants all need water to live. Non-living things, such as books and pencils, do not need to eat food or drink water.
- **All living things respond to changes that happen in their surroundings:** These changes, known as stimuli, include sound, heat, light, or touch. A bird will fly away from a loud sound. A moth will fly away from the dark and towards the light. Some plants close their leaves when touched. Some plants respond to light by growing toward it. Non-living things do not respond to these changes in the surroundings.

Think of something in your home. Does it grow? Does it move all by itself? Does it eat food or drink water? Can it make more of its kind? Does it respond to changes in its surroundings? If so, it is **living**. Otherwise, it is **non-living**.