

Basic Needs of Living Things

An Alabama Wildlife Federation Outdoor Classroom Field Journal Activity

How do you know if something is a living thing?

A living thing
moves, grows, and
changes over time.

For example:
an animal like a butterfly
or plant like a daisy



What are other differences between living things and nonliving things?

A living thing eats, drinks, and breathes, or it will die.



A nonliving thing does not eat, drink or breathe.
It cannot die because it is not alive.

What types of living things could we find in our outdoor classroom and schoolyard habitat?

We may find plants like trees, bushes, flowers and grass.

We may find animals like bees, birds, frogs or chipmunks.



What are the basic needs of animals? What do they need to survive?

Animals need water to drink, food to eat,
air to breathe, shelter to hide in,
and a place to raise their young.



What do animals eat? Why do animals need to eat?



Animals eat plants and other animals.

When an animal eats, its body then converts the food into energy.

Animals need energy to move and grow.



What are the basic needs of plants?
What do they need to survive?

Plants need water, food and nutrients,
air and sunlight, and a home or place to live.



How does a plant get the air, water, and food that it needs since it doesn't have a mouth?

Plants "breathe" air through tiny holes on the underside of their leaves.

Plants "drink" water and nutrients (food) from soil using their roots.

They also make "food" in their leaves using sunlight from the sun.

