



Unit: The Characteristics of Life

Lesson Plan 3: Characteristics of Organisms

Objective(s):

Students will be able to:

- Define *organism*
- List and explain the six characteristics of living things

Materials:

- Video from Discovery Education: (Subscription Required) Understanding Cells. Ancient Lights. 1998. Discovery Education. 12 December 2009. <<http://streaming.discoveryeducation.com/>>.

Anticipatory Set:

In the last lesson we looked at the difference between biotic and abiotic things. In today's lesson we will discover what the requirements are to classify something as a living thing.

Lesson:

- I. PowerPoint presentation
Have students take notes.
- II. Video: Understanding Cells. "The Characteristics of Life"

Lab Activity:

Have students explore the living things in their environment. Have them choose 10 living things. To the best of their ability, draw each living thing and explain how they think each living thing meets the biotic criteria. (e.g., Grass get energy from sun, grows tall when not cut, dies when it gets cold, etc.)

Evaluation:

- Lab observations



Characteristics and Classification of Organisms Part 2

Characteristics of Organisms

•Organism:

- any living thing that meets the six biotic criteria

Biotic Criteria: All living things

- 1) Are made of cells
- 2) Obtain and use energy
- 3) Maintain homeostasis
- 4) Reproduce
- 5) Grow and develop
- 6) Adapt to their environment

