

# UNIT-1 THINGS AROUND US

## 1 Living and Non-Living Things

You will now learn about

- ◆ Various features of living things
  - Living things breathe
  - Living things eat food and need energy
  - Living things throw out waste matter
  - Living things reproduce
  - Living things grow old and die
  - Living things show movement
  - Living things are sensitive



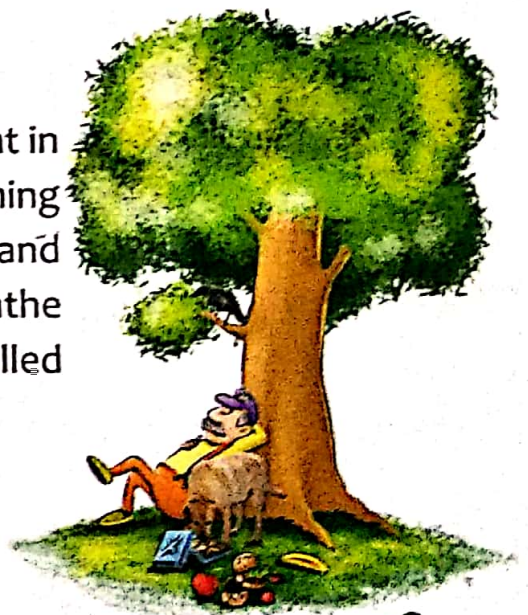
Living things—we use these words quite often but what do they really mean? Living thing is the name of a certain group of things. Human beings, animals and plants belong to this group. To belong to this group, a thing should generally have **seven characteristics**.

### Living Things Breathe

Living things need oxygen to live. This oxygen is present in the air around us. All living things have some kind of opening through which the oxygen can enter the body. Humans and most of the animal have a **nose** to take in air, fish breathe through **gills** while plants breathe through tiny holes called **stomata** found on the underside of their leaves.

### Living Things Eat Food and Need Energy

Living things need to eat food to survive. Food gives energy and helps them grow. All living beings have methods and ways to take food. Human beings eat cereals, vegetables, fruits, eggs and meat; cow eats grass and hay; lion eats flesh of other animals, while a frog eats insects. Living things need energy to do all the activities that help them to live.



**Did You Know?**

The pitcher plant traps insects and eats them.

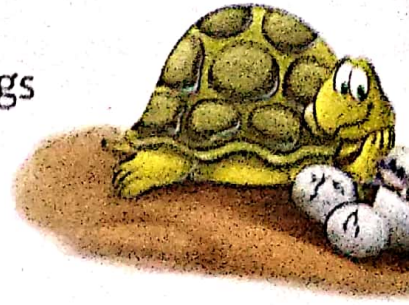
### Living Things Throw out Waste Matter

Living things take in food that helps them to survive and grow. But in this process, all living things throw waste matter out of their bodies.



## Living Things Reproduce

All living things have young ones. They create living things like themselves. Humans, dogs and monkeys give birth to young ones whereas birds and insects lay eggs. Young ones hatch out of eggs. Plants reproduce through seeds.



### Activity

Animals that lay eggs:

\_\_\_\_\_

Animals that give birth to young ones:

\_\_\_\_\_

## Living Things Grow Old and Die

Living things have a life cycle. They take birth, become adults, grow old and die. No living thing lives forever, though some live for a very long time.



## Living Things Show Movement

All living things show some kind of movement. Internal movement (movement inside the body) results in transportation of things like water and food to different parts of the body. It also helps to collect waste matter and throws it out of the body.



External movement means moving from one place to another.

### Activity

Write four reasons why you move?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

6

## Living Things are Sensitive

All living things are sensitive to light, seasons and to other living things around them. If there are changes in their living conditions, they adjust themselves to the changes or move to a place that is more suitable to them. If they do neither of the two, they die.





## To Sum Up

We say that a living thing is a thing that breathes, eats food, throws out waste matter, grows old and dies, moves, is sensitive and has young ones. Non-living things do not have these characteristics. They cannot move, grow, eat, feel, breathe and reproduce. The furniture in your house, the utensils in your kitchen, the vehicles on the road, rocks, stones, books, pencils, etc., are all non-living things.

Scientists have counted about 2 million varieties of living things! This group is too big to study, so it is divided into various smaller groups. In the chapters that follow, you will be studying about two groups — plants and animals.



- ◆ Living thing is the name of a group of things that breathes, eats food, throws out waste matter, grows, moves, is sensitive and has young ones.
- ◆ Living things are divided into two groups— plants and animals.

# exercise

## Bits'n' Bites

### Natural and Man-made things

The things that are made by nature are called natural things. Plants, animals, humans, soil, rivers are natural things. The things made by man are called man-made things. Chairs, cars, homes, planes, etc. are man-made things.

### A. Answer the following questions:

1. How many characteristics does a living thing have?
2. Name any four features of living things.
3. What is a living thing? Define.
4. Name the two groups that living things are divided into.

### B. Fill in the blanks:

1. Living things breathe in a gas called \_\_\_\_\_ in order to live.
2. Living things have a \_\_\_\_\_ cycle.
3. Living things have \_\_\_\_\_ movement and external movement.
4. Living things are \_\_\_\_\_ to light.
5. There are about \_\_\_\_\_ million varieties of living things.
6. Plants breathe through tiny holes called \_\_\_\_\_.