Kindergarten Activity: Living vs Nonliving

Some things in this world are alive. Others are not.
(NGSS Disciplinary Core Ideas K-ESS3-A: Natural Resources; K-LS1-C: Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms)

Pre-Activity Questions

- Are we alive? What else is alive?
- What do living things need?
- Do non-living things need anything?

Activity

- Let's think about some living things. Can you name anything that is alive? What makes them alive?
  - There are a lot of living things out there. Some living things move (us), some do not (grass), but all of us need certain things to survive, like energy. We develop and grow, and we adapt and respond to our environment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANIMALS</th>
<th>PLANTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>food</td>
<td>sun (energy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>water</td>
<td>water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>air</td>
<td>air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shelter</td>
<td>soil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>space</td>
<td>space</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Can you name anything that is non-living? Non-living things never were, are not, and never will be alive.

- Watch Cookie Monster learn about living and nonliving things.
Living vs Nonliving Sort

Materials

- Images of living and nonliving things
- Scissors
- 2 buckets
- Tape
- Labels: LIVING, NONLIVING

Steps

1. Find images of living and nonliving things. Use scissors to cut the images out of old magazines, calendars, or printed pictures.
   a. OPTIONAL: Print the images on the final pages of this document.
2. Tape your LIVING label to one bucket and your NONLIVING label to the other.
3. Sort the images, placing them in the correct bucket.
   a. Hint: Keep in mind, some living things don’t move.
4. Shuffle your nonliving bucket and pull out a picture without looking. Why did you put that image in the nonliving bucket? Do the same for the living bucket.
5. Continue, alternating buckets until you’ve gone through all of your pictures.

Post-Activity Questions and Activities

- Do the Animal Care & Needs Activity.

- Search around your house for living and nonliving things. What did you find?
  o Hint: You can use stuffed animals to represent animals (living), but you will also be able to find actual living things (check your fridge or fruit bowl).

- EXTRA CHALLENGE: Pick one of your nonliving images. What would this thing need to be considered alive? Draw a made up animal or plant inspired by this thing.
  o Don’t forget to draw what it needs to survive. What does it eat or how does it get energy? Where does it live? How does it adapt to changes in weather?