

Characteristics of Living Things

Name: _____

Period: _____

Use Chapter 2, Section 1 of your textbook to answer the questions below. A ★ means a two word answer.

Section 1: Characteristics of Living Things (p.52)

- 1. The science term that means “living things” is _____.
- 2. How many characteristics do all living things share? _____

Living Things Have Cells (p.52)

- 3. How many cells do all living things have? _____



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- _____ 4. Which characteristic below do all organisms share?

- a. All living things have eyes.
- b. All living things have cells.
- c. All living things have hair.
- d. All living things have skin.

- 5. The smallest functional and structural unit of life is called a _____.

- _____ 6. Which of the following separates a cell’s contents from the cell’s environment?

- a. an outer husk b. a watery cushion c. a hard shell d. a cell membrane

- 7. If a living thing has a lot of cells, different cells in it will perform specialized _____.

- 8. Look at Figure 1. Which organism will have different cells with specialized functions?

The _____ will have different cells with specialized functions.

Living Things Sense and Respond to Change (p.53)

- _____ 9. What are all living things able to do?

- a. All living things can sense and respond to change.
- b. All living things can smell.
- c. All living things can taste.
- d. All living things can see.

- 10. Any change that affects an organism’s activity is a _____.

- 11. Look at Figure 2. What does the insect do to the Venus flytrap to make it close its leaves?



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Homeostasis / Responding to External Changes (p.53)

- 12. Maintenance of a stable internal environment is called _____.

- 13. When you are getting too hot, your body will respond by _____.

- 14. When you are getting too cold, your body will respond by _____.

- 15. Some organisms control their body temperature by moving from one _____ to another.

turn this page over for more questions


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Living Things Reproduce (p.54)

16. The process in which *two* parents produce offspring that share both parents' characteristics is called

_____ . 

17. The process in which *one* parent produces offspring that are identical to the parent is called

_____ . 

18. Look at the bears in Figure 3. Do they reproduce asexually or sexually? _____

19. Look at the hydra in Figure 4. Do hydras reproduce asexually or sexually? _____

Living Things Have DNA (p.54)

20. The cells of all living things contain _____, also known as deoxyribonucleic acid.

21. The passing of traits, or _____, happens when parents pass copies of their DNA to their offspring.

Living Things Use Energy (p.54)

_____ 22. How do living things carry out the chemical activities of life?
a. by shivering b. by reproducing c. by growing d. by using energy

23. When your body is breaking down food, what does it use? _____

24. When your body is building new cells, what does it use? _____

25. _____ is the sum of all chemical activities that occur in an organism.

Living Things Grow and Develop (p.55)

_____ 26. Which of the following statements about growth and development is NOT true?
a. All living things grow during parts of their lives.
b. A single-celled organism grows and divides.
c. A multicellular organism shrinks and divides.
d. Living things may develop and change.