

Name: _____

Date: _____

● Living vs. Nonliving Things Reading Passage (Version 2)

LIVING VS. NONLIVING THINGS

Things or factors that make up the environment are living or nonliving. **Living things** are organisms that are able to grow, develop, reproduce and perform different functions that make it alive. **Nonliving things** are not alive. They do not grow, develop or reproduce. Living things interact with other living things as well as nonliving things in the environment. These interactions, as well the climate of an area, determine what an environment is like.

The living things in an ecosystem are called **biotic factors**. Living things are made of cells. They grow, develop, reproduce, use energy and perform other functions that make it alive. Animals, plants, insects, bacteria and fungi are biotic factors. The interactions between organisms are classified as biotic factors. This includes predation, parasitism and disease. Parts of organisms, such as the branches of a tree are biotic if those parts are made of living tissue. However, some parts of organisms, such as the shell of a clam, are not living because they are not made of living tissue.

Abiotic factors make up the chemical and physical parts of the ecosystem. Soil, rocks, water and air are abiotic factors. Temperature, sunlight, acidity, space, and pollutants are also abiotic factors. Natural disasters, such as forest fires, floods, tornadoes and earthquakes are considered to be abiotic factors. Some substances made by living things are abiotic. Milk, sweat and tears are made by living things but they are considered to be abiotic because they are not made of living tissue. Abiotic factors are often limiting factors in the environment. Limiting factors regulate how many organisms live in an ecosystem. They restrict the growth of populations. The availability of water, space and temperature limit the size of populations in an ecosystem. You will learn more about limiting factors in a different activity.

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● Living vs. Nonliving Things Answer Sheet (Version 2)

Questions

1. Give examples of biotic factors.

2. Give examples of abiotic factors.

3. Are milk, sweat and tears considered to be living or nonliving? Explain.

4. Compare and contrast biotic and abiotic factors.

5. Symbiosis is a relationship between organisms in which one or both organisms benefit from the relationship? Do you think this is a biotic or abiotic factor. Justify your answer.
