

Living  and Non-living  Things at the LCCC Arboretum

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Draw one thing that is <b>living</b>	Draw one thing that is non-living

Draw one thing that is <b>living</b>	Draw one thing that is non- living

Information from Harvard University Arboretum for teaching this concept:

## LIVING AND NON-LIVING

When young children begin to explore what makes something a living thing, and what makes something else non-living, there will be many areas of confusion. They may have limited experience with the natural world, a rich imagination, and are just beginning to develop logical thinking. They might come to incorrect conclusions, such as:

- A bird moves and makes noise, and so does a car; both must be living things.
- A seed doesn't do anything (seemingly), but a young plant changes and grows. So, a seed must be non-living.
- A leaf that has fallen off a tree is dead, which also means not alive. This must mean dead leaves are non-living things.
- People need water to live, so water must be a living thing too.
- Wind can be strong, angry, or gentle; wind must be a living thing.

It is important for young children to understand that Living Things:

1. Need water, food, air, space or shelter, and light (for most plants).
2. Grow, develop, change, and die.
3. Are able to reproduce.

When looking for examples, it is helpful to teach children to ask themselves:

“Does it eat or need nutrients to survive?” “Can it make babies or more of itself?”

“Does it grow and change?” “Can it die?”

“Did it come from a living thing?”

Phrases such as “once living” and “never living” can further help children differentiate between living and non-living. Older children may be introduced to the word “dormant” to describe seeds or trees in winter.

