



A question of life or death

Background knowledge

All living things carry out certain life activities. They *reproduce*, *grow*, and obtain food or *nutrition*. They all *respire* to obtain energy. Some respire by using gases from the air. All living things must *excrete* or get rid of the waste they produce. Living things also *move*. They may move to get food or run away from an enemy. Last, living things are *sensitive* to the environment around them. For example, some feel pain or heat.

Science activity

The words below describe some of the life activities of living things. Draw a line from each word to the picture that shows it happening.



Science investigation

Place some pill bugs or crickets in a large covered jar with holes in the lid. Add a cut up potato and some fish food. Observe the critters and note down all of their life activities. Do they engage in every activity? Design and conduct an experiment to determine the critters' sensitivity to their environment.



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Excretes
Respires
Grows
Feeds
Senses
Moves

Science investigation

You might set up two chambers, one with light and one without. These can be made from two margarine tubs connected together, so that the bugs can travel between them. Pill bugs prefer moist, dark environments. Crickets tend to chirp more at higher temperatures.