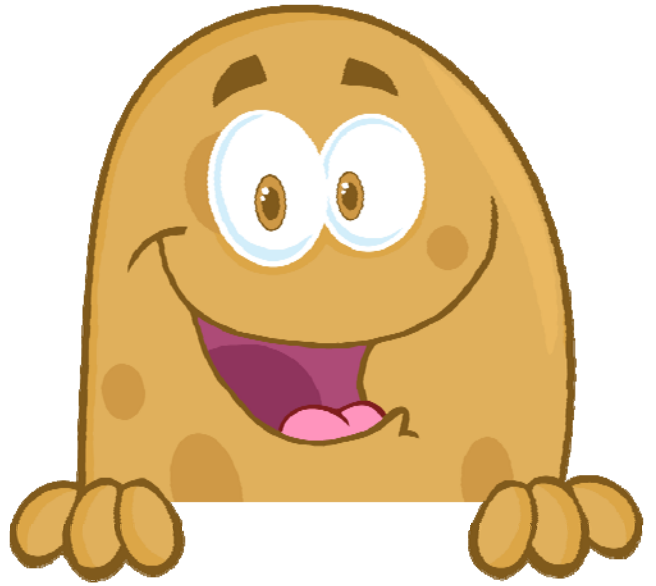


Common Functions to all Living Things

If we were to take a large number of living things, we would notice that they all have something in common. However, you would also know that they are different as well. All living things show similarities as well show a great deal of diversity (differences). Here is what all living things have in common.



- 1) All living things are highly organized and contain many complex chemical substances.
- 2) All living things contain one or more cells. **UNICELLULAR**- contains just one cell
MULTICELLULAR- contains many cells
- 3) All living things use energy.
- 4) Living things have a definite form and have a limited size.
- 5) Living things grow.
- 6) Living things respond to changes in the environment.
- 7) Living things can reproduce.
- 8) Living things eventually die.

Nonliving objects may show one, or even a few of these characteristics but they never show all of them.

So we conclude that all living things perform following functions.

- Respiration
- Regulation
- Reproduction
- Excretion
- Growth
- Nutrition
- Transport
- Synthesis



Extended Response Questions

1. Suppose an organism uses energy but it does not grow, reproduce or does not perform any other function. Can it be called a living thing? Give reasons to support your answer.

2. Name any four functions that are common to all living things.

3. All living things show similarities to each other as well as show differences amongst each other. Do you think this is a correct statement?

4. Give two examples of living things.

