

Biology Homework 1-2.1 Characteristics of Life

Use your **journal** as a reference tool in addition to the information provided below to answer the questions that follow.

In this course, we will focus on the seven characteristics that biologists use to define life. In order for something to be considered alive, it must meet all of the following characteristics. All living things -

1. are organized into one or more cells
2. respond to stimuli
3. reproduce and pass traits to offspring
4. grow
5. adapt and evolve
6. maintain homeostasis
7. obtain and use energy

Anything that exhibits all seven characteristics is referred to as an organism.



Identify the characteristic of life that applies to each of the following examples.

1. _____ A seedling becomes a tomato plant.
2. _____ When a mouse detects vibrations it runs
3. _____ You came from your parents.
4. _____ Elephants consume 330 pounds of food daily.
5. _____ Although many organisms are made up of many of these small units of life, bacteria are made of only one.
6. _____ An owl's night vision allows it to see the movement of mice even in the darkest night.
7. _____ Your body normally maintains a temperature of 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit.
8. A classmate tells you he that he read an article in Wikipedia that stated that rotting garbage can turn into maggots which are fly larvae. The maggots then can grow into adult flies. **What part of the cell theory could you use to refute his claim? Justify your answer.**
