

Characteristics of Living Organisms

Chapter 1: Characteristics of Living Organisms · Topic 1

Key Concept

All living organisms grow, increasing in size and complexity over time, unlike non-living things which do not grow biologically.

Living organisms reproduce, creating offspring similar to themselves, ensuring the continuation of their species.

Living organisms respond to stimuli in their environment, like a plant growing towards light or an animal reacting to danger.

Other characteristics include respiration (using oxygen for energy), excretion (removing waste), and nutrition (obtaining food for energy).

Quick Revision Notes

- Living organisms grow over time.
- Non-living things don't grow biologically.
- Living organisms reproduce.
- This ensures species continuation.
- They respond to stimuli.
- Example: plant growing towards light.
- Other traits: respiration, excretion, nutrition.
- These distinguish living from non-living things.

Practice Questions

- 1 List five characteristics of living organisms.
- 2 Discuss whether a rock is living or non-living and why.
- 3 Give an example of a living thing responding to stimuli.
- 4 Discuss why reproduction is important for species.
- 5 Discuss the role of nutrition in living things.
- 6 Explain respiration in your own words.