**The Characteristics of Life Activity**

Biology is the study of life. In this activity you will observe and discuss a group of living and non - living things and come up with a list of characteristics that you think define life.

**Instructions**

1. Have a discussion about what characteristics all living things share.

**Think – Pair – Share**

1. In your lab groups, observe each specimen. Decide whether or not each specimen has each of the characteristics of life. If the specimen has that characteristic write yes in the data table, if it does not write no.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Characteristic of All Living Things | bone | leaf | yeast | candle | rock | salt | bean | soil | insect |
| 1) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Analysis Questions**  (Answer clearly, in complete sentences on the back of this paper.)

1. Which of the characteristics of life were difficult to observe just by looking at the specimens?
2. For one of the specimens and one of the characteristic that were difficult to observe directly describe how you could observe that characteristic is you had enough time and equipment.
3. Do you think scientists have a set of characteristics of life that they all agree on? Why or why not?