

Skills Worksheet

Active Reading

Section: What Is Biology?

Read the passage below. Then answer the questions that follow.

All organisms show the seven properties of living things at one or more stages of their lives. The seven properties of living things are cellular organization, **homeostasis**, **metabolism**, responsiveness, **reproduction**, **heredity**, and growth. Nonliving things sometimes seem to show some of these properties. For example, some chemical substances change color when exposed to heat or light. They seem to be responsive. But these substances do not show all seven properties of living things. The seven properties give a clear method for determining what is living and what is nonliving.

Living things can reproduce. Reproduction is the process living organisms use to produce offspring. All living things are able to pass on their characteristics to their offspring. The process of passing of traits from parents to offspring is called heredity. Children tend to resemble their parents because of heredity.

SKILL: READING EFFECTIVELY

Read each question, and write your answer in the space provided.

1. List the seven properties of living things.

2. Does every living thing always show each one of these properties? Explain your answer.

Active Reading *continued*

3. Do nonliving things ever show properties of living things? Explain your answer.

4. What is reproduction?

5. What is heredity?

6. How are reproduction and heredity similar? How are they different?

In the space provided, write the letter of the term or phrase that best answers the question.

- _____ 7. Which of these is an example of reproduction?
- a. A bacterium splits into two bacteria.
 - b. A cell in your cheek makes a copy of the genetic information in its nucleus.
 - c. The bud on a tree branch swells in the spring.
 - d. A salamander has its tail cut off and grows a new tail.