A question of life or death

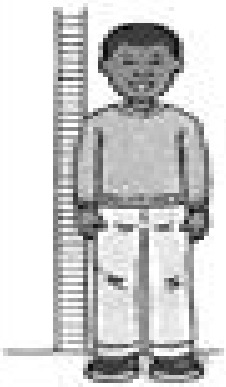
Background knowledge

All living things carry out certain life activities. They reproduce, grow, and obtain food or nutrition. They all respire to obtain energy. Some respire by using gases from the air. All living things must excrete or get rid of the waste they produce. Living things also move. They may move to get food or run away from an enemy. Last, living things are sensitive to the environment around them. For example, some feel pain or heat.

Science activity

The words below describe some of the life activities of living things. Draw a line from each word to the picture that shows it happening.

Reproduces
Excretes
Respires
Grows
Feeds
Senses
Moves



Science investigation

Place some gill bugs or crickets in a large covered jar with holes in the lid. Add a cut up potato and some fish food. Observe the critters and note down all of their life activities. Do they engage in every activity? Design and conduct an experiment to determine the critters' sensitivity to their environment.

© Dorling Kindersley Limited [2010]