

## Characteristics of Living Things

On page 4 of **Sciencepower 8**, You learned about three of the characteristics of living things – movement, growth, and reproduction. Below is a list of definitions of the 8 characteristics shared by living things.

If you have trouble remembering these characteristics, just think of the name: “Mr. C. Green.” Notice how each letter in this name is the first letter of each of the eight characteristics.

### The Eight Characteristics of Living Things

**M**ovement: The ability of an organism to bend and sway (sessility) or relocate (motility).

**R**eproduction: The ability of an organism to proliferate and pass on its traits.

**C**ells: Composed of cells

**G**rowth: The ability of an organism to increase in size through cell growth or cell division.

**R**esponse: The ability of an organism to react to a stimulus.

**E**xcretion: The ability of an organism to get rid of waste.

**E**xchange of Gases: In animals, the ability to take in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide; in plants, the ability to take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen.

**N**utrition: The ability of an organism to acquire and process foods/nutrients.

**Mr. C. Green**

# The Cell Theory

1. All living things are composed of one or more cells.
2. Cells are the basic unit of structure and function of any organism.
3. All cells come from pre-existing cells
4. The activity of an organism as a whole depends on the total activity of all its cells.