

## Lesson 1 Summary

### Lesson Title: Investigation 1 – Part 1 – Living or Nonliving

In this lesson you observed the antics of a mysterious material when it is placed on water and recorded your observations. You worked in groups to sort pictures of common objects into living and nonliving categories, defining the characteristics that qualify objects as living. The pictures are displayed in class so you can reevaluate your decisions as the course progresses. You set up miniponds for future study, using organic materials collected locally.

#### Objectives:

- Any free-living thing – plant, animal, or other – is an **organism**.
- All living organisms exhibit common characteristics; they grow, consume nutrients, exchange gases, respond to stimuli, reproduce, need water, eliminate waste, and are composed of cells.

#### Inquiry Skills:

- Sort pictures of objects and organisms into living and nonliving groups.
- Defend picture-sorting decisions with an operational definition of “living.”

#### Vocabulary:

- **Organism:** any free-living thing—plant, animal, or other. Organism is the most general word used to refer to an independently living thing.

#### Supporting Vocabulary:

- **Characteristics:** a feature of something
- **Observation:** using the senses to obtain information about objects and events
- **Evidence:** Information that supports a point. (Scientists don’t favor the term “prove,” as additional evidence may eventually disprove any hypothesis.) Evidence of life would be observations that support that something is alive.