

Needs of Living Things

All living things are constantly interacting with the living (BIOTIC) and non-living (ABIOTIC) elements of their communities. All living things, including sea creatures, plants, insects, and people, have the same basic needs for supporting life:

LIVING THINGS NEED AIR

All living things exchange some gasses for others. Plants "breathe" in carbon dioxide to make food energy and release oxygen. Animals inhale oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide. Some do this by means of gills and some by means of lungs.

LIVING THINGS NEED WATER

Most living things are made up mostly of water—indeed, our planet's surface is mostly covered with water. Living things cannot survive without water—water to drink, and also for many, water to live in.

LIVING THINGS NEED HABITAT

All living things require suitable places to live—places that meet their environmental needs for survival. Living things are adapted for survival in a wide range of habitat conditions and can survive if those conditions are present. Many animals modify their habitats by such actions as building shelters, burrowing, or finding dens or hollows in logs in which to hide, sleep, raise young, or hibernate.

LIVING THINGS NEED FOOD

All living things require food for energy. Plants make their own food, while animals have to eat it in the form of other living things—either plants or animals.