

Science Task

To understand that plants and animals are organisms.

An organism is a living thing. It can be a plant, an animal or a bacteria. All organisms do seven things. We remember this by Mrs Nerg. The natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism can be very different. Each organism is suited to the habitat it lives in. For example, African elephants have large ears that help them to cool down in the sun.

Task 1

Use the helpsheet below to create a poster with relevant information to help you remember Mrs Nerg.

EXT: Conduct a short song or dance to help you remember MRS NERG and what each letter stands for.

Task 2

*Identify three organisms that would live in the same habitat. Draw a picture of them and then *explain why* your organisms are suited to that habitat.*

Example:

The Arctic



Polar bears are suited to cold habitats such as The Arctic because they have white fur that camouflages them against the snow. This protects them from predators. They also have small ears which decrease the surface area of their skin to protect them from the cold.



Seals have a thick layer of blubber to insulate them from the cold temperatures of the ocean. Their bodies are streamlined and they have strong flippers to allow them to swim quickly through the water to catch their prey.



Penguins have a special system of feathers which trap air and are waterproof. The body is streamlined and tapers at both ends for swimming quickly through the water. Their legs and webbed feet are set far back on the body so they can stand up on land and their bodies are countershaded: dark on the dorsal (back) surface and white on the ventral (underside) surface so that predators or prey do not see a contrast between them and the environment.

MRS. NERG

Movement

All living things move.

- Animals move around to get from place to place.
- Plants grow and turn towards the light.



MRS. NERG

Respiration

All living things respire.

- Plants and animals use oxygen in the air to turn the food they eat into energy.

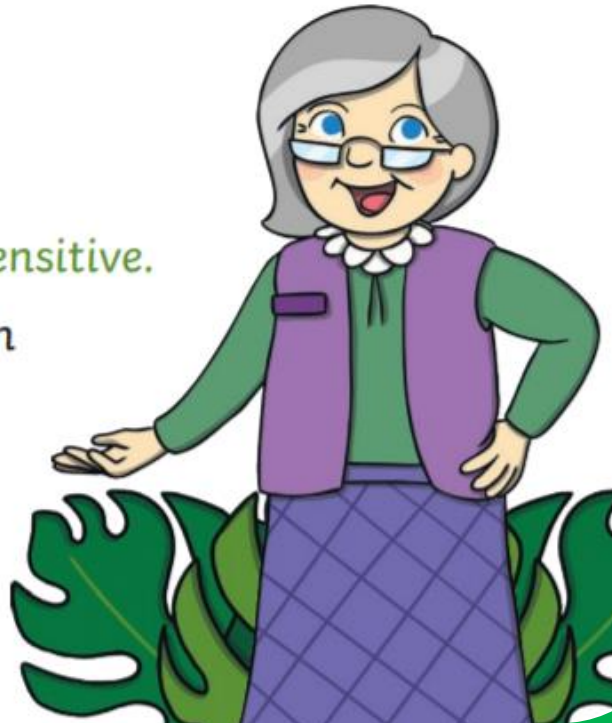


MRS. NERG

Sensitivity

All living things are sensitive.

- Every living thing can detect changes in their surroundings.



MRS. NERG

Nutrition

All living things need nutrition.

- Food is eaten to provide energy to live.
- Green plants make their own food using sunlight.



MRS. NERG

Excretion

All living things excrete.

- Waste products are removed from the body.
- Both plants and animals have to get rid of excess gas and water.



MRS. NERG

Reproduction

All living things reproduce.

- Animals have young.
- Plants produce seeds from which more plants grow.



MRS. NERG

Growth

All living things grow.

- Animals grow from babies to adults.
- Seeds grow into plants.

