

# Great Swamp Watershed Association BioBlitz Educational Materials

## What is Alive? Pre- Activity

1. Read What's Alive by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld
2. Discuss characteristics of living organisms with students.

Characteristics of living things:

Plants- grow, need nutrients, breathe carbon dioxide, need sunlight, and reproduce.

Animals- breath oxygen, eat, drink, grow, die, eliminate waste, need rest, move, communicate, have senses (see, hear, smell, taste), Reproduce.

3. Ask students open questions such as:

- What makes something a living thing?
- Are you a living thing? How do you know?
- What do living things need in order to stay alive? (e.g., food, water, air)
- What are examples of living things in the classroom?
- What are some living things outside?

4. Present students with a living plant or animal as an example and ask questions such as:

- Is this alive? How do you know?
- What do you see as you look at this [plant or animal, or neither]?
- What do you hear? Smell? Feel?
- How can plants and animals be like each other?
- How can they be different from each other?

5. Have students do "What's Alive" worksheet.

6. Wrap up by leading into BioBlitz activity, describing how students will seek out the living things on their site, no matter what they are, but will also look at the environmental and non-living parameters of their site too.