

The Four Main Characteristics of Life

All living things have these characteristics:

- **Organization**
 - All living things are comprised of one or more cells.
 - Some organisms are very simple; while, others are organized into different parts with different functions.
- **The ability to development and grow**
 - All organisms are capable of growing (changing size).
 - Most organisms develop into an adult form.
- **The ability to respond to the environment**
 - All organisms are capable of using energy from the environment.
 - All organisms are capable of obtaining nutrients from the environment.
- **The ability to reproduce**
 - All organisms are capable of producing new organisms that are similar to themselves.