



LIVING THINGS AND THEIR NEEDS

Need or Want?

Written by Nancy Moreno, Ph.D., Barbara Tharp, M.S., and Paula Cutler, B.A.

from *Living Things and Their Needs Teacher's Guide* and for *Tillena Lou's Day in the Sun*.

BioEdSM

Teacher Resources from the
Center for Educational Outreach at
Baylor College of Medicine

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The activities described in this book are intended for school-age children under direct supervision of adults. The authors, Baylor College of Medicine and the publisher cannot be responsible for any accidents or injuries that may result from conduct of the activities, from not specifically following directions, or from ignoring cautions contained in the text.

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Using Cooperative Groups

Cooperative learning is a systematic way for students to work together in groups of two to four. Quite often, early primary students need to have their own materials, but can work in groups to share ideas and to learn from one another. Through such interactions, students are more likely to take responsibility for their own learning. The use of cooperative groups provides necessary support for reluctant learners, models community settings where cooperation is necessary, and enables the teacher to conduct hands-on investigations in a more manageable environment.


Students wear job badges that describe their duties. Tasks are rotated within each group for different activities so that each student has an opportunity to experience all roles. Teachers even may want to make class charts to coordinate job assignments within groups.

Once a cooperative model for learning has been established in the classroom, students are able to conduct science activities in an organized and effective manner. All students are aware of their responsibilities and are able to contribute to successful group efforts.

• Asks others to help with questions

○ fold here ○

○ ○




Scientist Leader

• Gets the materials and returns materials to the leader

○ fold here ○

○ ○


Materials Scientist



• Writes or draws results when group is finished

○ fold here ○

○ ○



Scientist Recorder

• Follows the safety rules cleanup

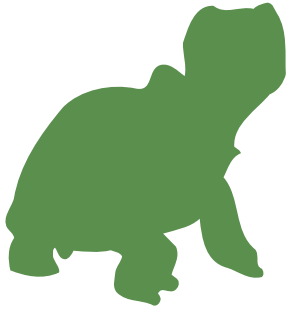
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Safety Scientist







Need or Want?

Students will learn to distinguish between basic survival “needs” of human beings and things that are not essential for life (“wants”).

CONCEPTS

- People, like other animals, have basic needs.
- People need water, food, air and a place to be.
- People also need ways to keep themselves warm or cool enough.
- “Needs” are things that are essential for survival; “wants” are things that are desired, but not essential.

SKILLS

Science: Observing, sorting and classifying, predicting, generalizing, applying knowledge, charting, identifying patterns

Mathematics: Sorting and classifying

Language Arts: Listening, communicating, identifying words, understanding word meanings, developing comprehension skills, following directions

TIME

Set-up: 15 minutes

Class: 45 minutes

MATERIALS

Per student

- Clear tape
- Crayons or markers
- Glue
- Pair of scissors
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Sheet of white construction paper, 18 in. x 12 in.
- 2 copies of “A Kid Like Me,” and 1 copy of “My Stuff” student pages
- Copy of “My Science Journal” (optional)

Human beings have the same needs as other animals. Namely, people need food, water and air. In addition, they need to keep themselves at an optimal temperature with clothing and/or shelter. Just like many animals, people need safe places to rest and care for themselves and their offspring.

At the same time, human beings also create things for themselves that make life safer, easier and more pleasurable. Examples include new and improved kinds of foods, televisions and radios, computers, comfortable furniture, air conditioning, convenience food, automobiles and games. Many of these things are not essential for basic survival. This activity is designed to help students distinguish between actual needs of people and other things that are desirable, but not necessary for life.

SETUP

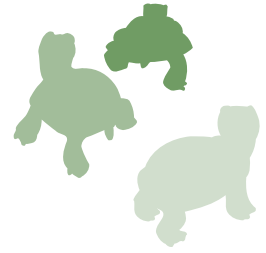
Make copies of the activity sheets for each child. Students also will be folding 18-in. x 12-in. sheets of construction paper to create pocket charts.

You may want to prepare the construction paper in advance for younger children. First, fold the paper in half (to 9 in. x 12 in.). Unfold the sheet and draw a vertical line on the crease. Flip the sheet over and draw a horizontal line 2 inches from the bottom of the page (to create a guide for folding).

PROCEDURE

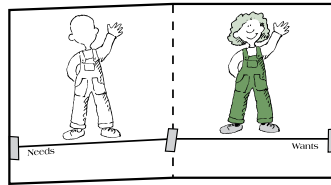
1. Ask students, *What do people need to live?* As students answer, call attention to the difference between a need and a want or desire. Ask students, *Could a person survive without this* (the item)? Help students understand that an item is identified as a need or want by whether it is necessary for a person to stay alive. Prompt students to think about some of the characteristics of living things, including the ability to grow, reproduce and move, and the need for resources such as air and water.
2. Explain to students that they will make a “Things I Need or Want” pocket chart.
3. Distribute a 18-in. x 12-in. sheet of paper to each student. Tell students to fold the sheet in half like a book (18-in. side is horizontal) and crease the fold. Have them open the sheet up and draw a vertical line on the crease. With the sheet still open, have students fold the paper up from the bottom to form a 2-in. pocket. Students should secure the pocket with a small piece of tape on each folded-up side and in the middle of the sheet.





Note. Pockets on the chart will be used to hold cutouts from the “My Stuff” student sheet until final decisions are made by each student about where the images belong on the chart.

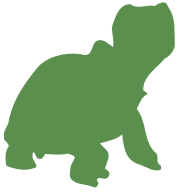
4. Have students write “Needs” on the left pocket and “Wants” on the right pocket.
5. Give each student two copies of the student page, “A Kid Like Me.” Have students completely color the figure of the child on only one of the pages. Students should cut out both figures.
6. Have students paste the blank figure in the middle of the “Needs” page (above the pocket on the left) and paste the colored-in figure in the middle of the “Wants” page (above the pocket on the right).
7. Distribute copies of the “My Stuff” student pages. Have students color the drawings, then cut out the pictures. Ask students to identify each item and put the items in either the “Needs” or “Wants” pocket of their folders.
8. As a group, discuss the students’ decisions, allowing the students to justify or explain their choices. Reiterate the difference between need and want: if the item is necessary for a person to stay alive and healthy, it is a need; if it is not necessary for survival, it is a want.
9. Instruct students to pull the items out of the pockets carefully, keeping each group of items in two separate stacks (needs and wants).
10. Follow by having students arrange “Needs” pictures on the left side of the chart and “Wants” images on the right side of the chart. Allow students to change their minds about their initial choices. Then, ask them to paste each of the “Needs” inside of (or on top of) the blank figure and paste the “Wants” around the colored-in figure.



EXTENSIONS

- Allow students to add additional items to their “Things I Need or Want” charts. Have students select and cut items from magazines or have them draw the items on a separate sheet of paper.
- Have students think about the ways in which people are unique from other animals. Possibilities include building and using complicated tools and machines to do work or to extend their senses; building large complex cities in which to live and work; creating new forms of transportation; etc.
- Challenge students to think about whether all living things can move on their own. Have them compare familiar animals with familiar plants to prompt their thinking.

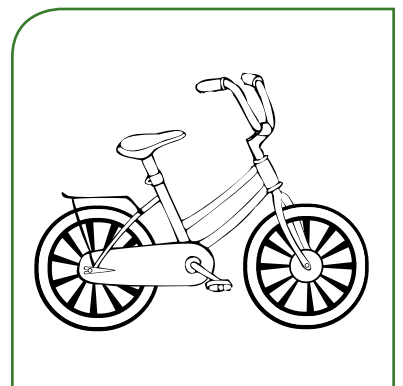
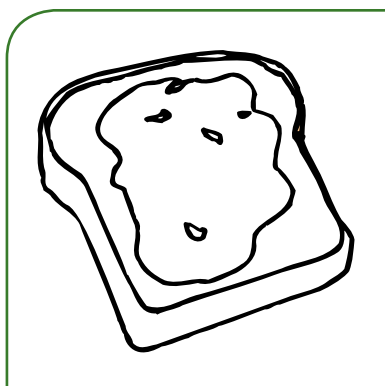
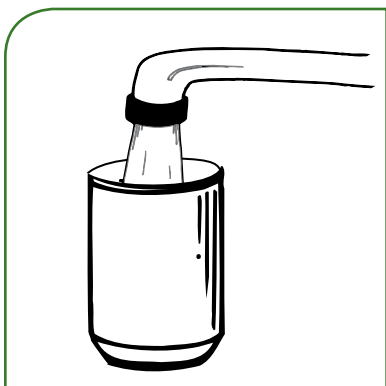
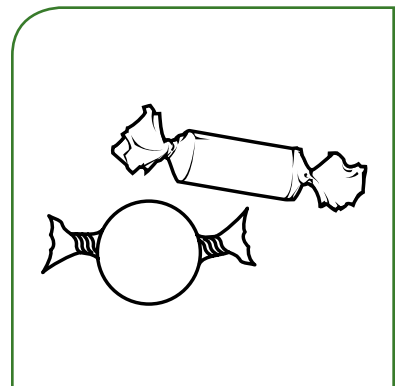
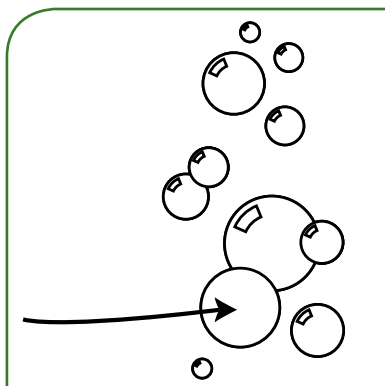
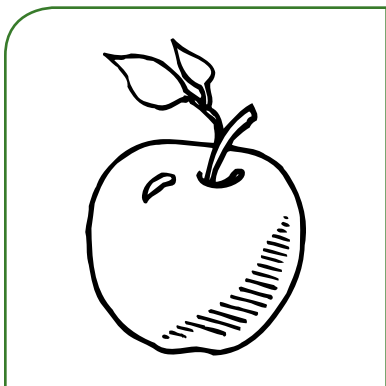
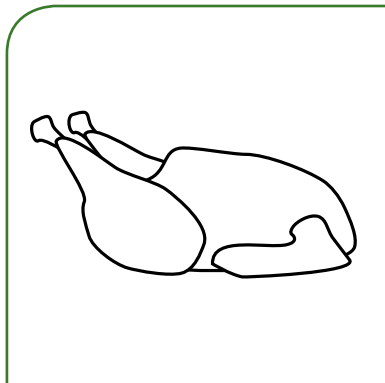
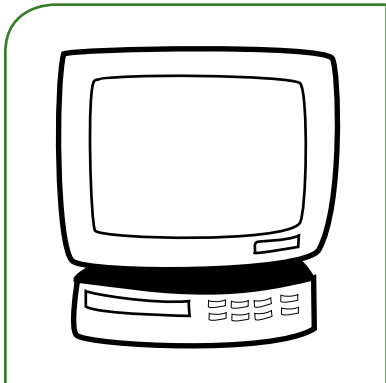
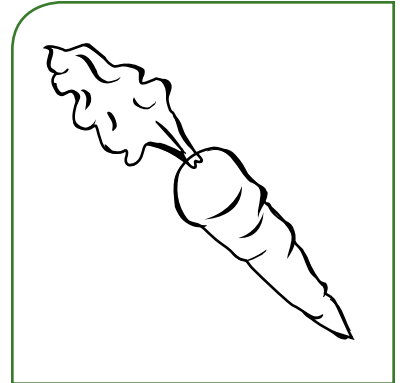
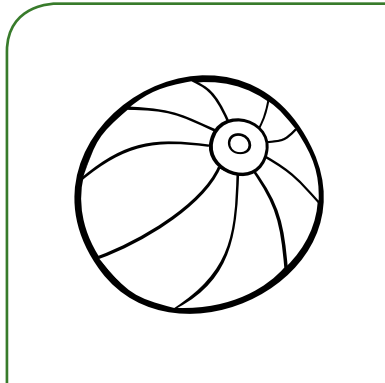
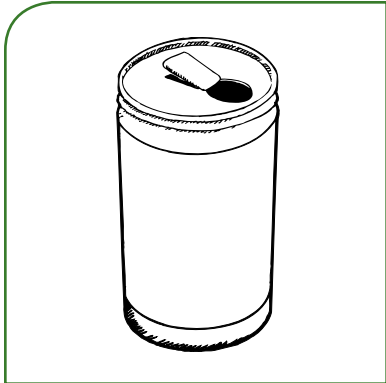
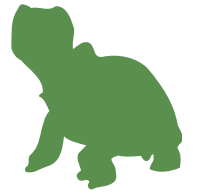


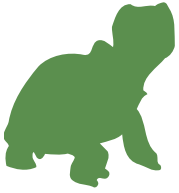


A Kid Like Me



My Stuff





My Science Journal

Name _____

Date _____

Project Name _____

DRAWING

**KEY WORD
TO USE**

I OBSERVED . . .

