



What Makes Things Alive?

Name: _____

Date: _____

You will be examining two substances- yeast and sand- to determine some characteristics of living things.

Table 1: What Makes Something Alive?

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| * | | * | |
| * | | * | |
| * | | * | |
| * | | * | |
| * | | * | |

Table 2: Physical Description of Yeast and Sand

| | Beaker A | Beaker B |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| Size | | |
| Color | | |
| Shape | | |
| Texture (feel) | | |
| Smell | | |

Table 3: Prediction: What will happen in each beaker when the sugary liquid is added?

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

Table 4: Description of Beaker Contents plus Sugary Liquid

| | Beaker A | Beaker B |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| Change in texture | | |
| Change in color | | |
| Bubbles? | | |
| Other observations | | |

Table 5: Criteria Important to Determine Whether Something is Living or Non-living

| | |
|---|---|
| * | * |
| * | * |
| * | * |
| * | * |

Conclusions

1. What similarities did you notice between yeast and sand in Step 5?

2. In step 7, what did you observe in each beaker? Was your prediction accurate?

3. What do you think happened in each beaker? [Hint: Go back to Table 1 where you listed your ideas about what makes something alive].

4. Why was it important to use equal amounts of yeast and sand and an equal amount of sugary liquid in each beaker?

5. How has this activity helped you understand the differences between living and non-living things?

6. What new questions about living and non-living things do you have after performing this activity?