

Characteristics of Living Organisms

Characteristics	Plant	Paramecium	Human
retrieves/uses energy	photosynthesizes	scoops up food in the gullet	ingests food in the mouth and processes it in the digestive system
grows and reproduces	reproduces by means of seeds, cuttings, and runners	splits into two new paramecia	reproduces by sexual means
responds to the environment	grows toward light	swims to catch food	uses the nervous system to receive information from outside the body and to send messages to other parts of the body
produces wastes	gives off extra water through transpiration	squirts out wastes and extra water through vacuoles and gives off carbon dioxide	gives off carbon dioxide and urea
has a lifespan	lives from months to hundreds of years (annual, biennial, perennial)	lives from hours to a few days	lives approximately 80 years
is made of cell(s)	consists of more than one cell	consists of only one cell	consists of more than one cell