

Characteristics of Living Organisms

- **Movement:** an action by an organism or part of an organism causing a change of position or place
- **Respiration:** the chemical reactions that break down nutrient molecules in living cells to release energy for metabolism
- **Sensitivity:** the ability to detect or sense stimuli in the internal or external environment and to make appropriate responses
- **Growth:** a permanent increase in size and dry mass by an increase in cell number or cell size or both
- **Reproduction:** the processes that make more of the same kind of organism.
- **Excretion:** the removal from organisms of toxic materials, the waste products of metabolism (chemical reactions in cells including respiration) and substances in excess of requirements
- **Nutrition:** the taking in of materials for energy, growth and development; plants require light, carbon dioxide, water and ions; animals need organic compounds, ions and usually need water

Use this mnemonic to help you remember these processes:

MRS. GREN

Movement **R**espiration **S**ensitivity

Growth and development **R**eproduction **E**xcretion **N**utrition