The Story of Living and Non-living Matter

Living matter is matter that is or has been alive.

A mouse is alive. Money is not.

Non-living matter is matter that has never been alive.
Living things do certain activities that non-living things do not do.

A seed which you planted will also grow. It is living. A piece of glass cannot grow.

All living things grow. You are living. A baby duck grows too.

Living things are able to make more of their kind. A buck and a doe are able to reproduce a baby deer called a fawn.
All living things respond to outside forces such as light or heat.

A green plant will respond to light by growing towards it.

A toad will bury itself in the ground in the winter to protect itself from the cold.

Can you think of other things that can reproduce?
Plants move, too, but very slowly.

All living things need food to live. If they do not have food, they will starve and die.

A rock will move only if someone else moves it. It can’t move by itself.

Living things can move. A fish swims, an insect hops, a bird flies, and you walk.
Some living things live a very long time. The giant redwood trees in California live for thousands of years.

There have been living things on the earth from the beginning.

Some living things live a very short time. Some insects live only a few hours.

This story comes from the AMI Primary Language Album. This illustrated version is courtesy Virginia Nolker, School en casa. You can find more resources at schoolencasa.com. Please send others who are interested to the site to download their own copy. Thank you!

Digital art by ABCHelpingHands, Aisne's Creations, LitaLita, Carrie Teaching First, A Sketchy Guy, Illumismart, Carmela Fiorino Vieira, Clip Art Engine, Teacher Scrapbook, Hidesy's Clipart, Elizabeth McCarter, Joe Stouffer Sinclair, Gramma Elliot Clipart, Ninja Woman, Ketchin Up with Miss Riley, Dots of Fun, Teacher Laura, Zippadeedodah Designs