

Characteristics of Living Organisms

- ❖ **Nutrition** - All living organisms require food that provides energy and enable them to grow. Plants synthesize their own food by photosynthesis and animals depend on plants for food.
- ❖ **Growth** - Living organisms grow like egg hatches to produce hen, seeds germinate into a seedling and pups grow into adult dog.
- ❖ **Respiration** - Plants and animals take in oxygen and give out carbon dioxide by the process of breathing which is a part of respiration. The glucose from food is broken down to generate energy. Earthworm breathes through skin while fish through gills. Lungs are the respiratory organs in mammals. Plants photosynthesize during day while respiration takes place all the time.
- ❖ **Response to stimuli** - Changes in our surroundings that makes us respond to them, are called **stimuli**. All living organisms respond to stimuli. For example the leaves of mimosa plant close on touching and wild animals run away when bright light is flashed towards them.
- ❖ **Reproduction** - It is the process in living organisms where the organism produces offspring. Mode of reproduction may vary. Some animals like hen lay eggs
 - ❖ while dogs and cow give birth to young ones.
 - ❖ Plants reproduce by seeds but can also grow from leaves, roots or stem like potato with a bud grows into a new plant.
- ❖ **Excretion** - plants and animals get rid of their waste materials through the process of excretion. Plants secrete resins and gums while animals excrete in the form of uric acid or urea.

