

Preparing for the Unit

1. Curiosity Centre

The Curiosity Centre gives students an opportunity to investigate science ideas and tools through active participation, free exploration, and independent play. In this hands-on centre, students can explore items related to the needs and characteristics of living things.

The Curiosity Centre could have

- living things such as plants (houseplants, cacti) and animals (class pet such as a gerbil or lizard; ant farm; vermiculture—composting using live earthworms; aquaria; betta fish; terrarium)
- realistic models of living things, such as plastic animal figurines
- materials or objects that come from, or are related to, living things and their activities, such as fur, leather, wood, wicker, bone, shells, a piece of a wasp nest, a bird's nest, eggshells, wool, cotton
- books, magazines, photographs, and other sources of text and images related to living things
- videos of living things loaded onto a tablet

Check the centre frequently to ensure it is well stocked with items. Invite students to contribute to the centre by bringing in items or photographs related to living things; if any students self-identify as Aboriginal, ask them to bring items in these categories that are related to their culture. Remind students to tidy up the materials when they are finished.

Note: You may choose to display new items every few days or introduce items one at a time throughout the unit.

2. Science Journals and Folders



Continue to encourage students to add new questions or ideas to their Journals as often as they like. Students can also record their findings and what they learned during investigations.

Remind students that they should store their Science Journals along with completed BLMs, drawings, stories, etc. related to the unit in their Science Folders.

3. Word Wall



Add any relevant science terminology to the Word Wall throughout the unit. Urge students to use the terms as often as possible as they work through the unit.

4. I Wonder Wall



Continue to build the I Wonder Wall throughout the unit by posting students' questions as they arise. Refer to the I Wonder Wall often and select questions that students may be ready to answer.

5. Reading Centre

Add texts (books, magazines, and photographs) relating to the needs and characteristics of living things to the Reading Centre. The titles in the Science Library will help start off a collection of books. Also refer to the lists of texts in the Additional Resources section of this guide (pages 82–83).