Frankenstein Lab

Class

copy

What characteristics do living things share?

Goals:

* Determine the characteristics necessary for life based on observation.
* Identify the challenge of determining whether something is alive or not.

**Create the following diagram in your journals**

**Data Table: Observations of Specimen in Petri Dishes 1 and 2**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Petri Dish 1 | Petri Dish 2 |
|  |  |  |
| Diagram:  Draw what you see in the petri dish |  |  |
| Evidence that the specimen **IS** alive: |  |  |
| Evidence that the specimen is **NOT** alive: |  |  |
| Claim: Is it alive or not? |  |  |

1. **Observation:** As you observe each petri dish…
   1. draw what you see
   2. list at least 2 pieces of evidence that could support the claim that the specimen is alive
   3. list at least 2 pieces of evidence that could support the claim that the specimen is not alive
   4. No you do not need complete sentances!
2. **Make a claim:** for each petri dish, after you have observed, make a claim: is it alive or not?
   1. You will vote with your feet!
3. **Argumentation**: what evidence supports your claim?
   1. At least two students from each side will provide their evidence to the class, so be ready!
4. **Answer!** Correct your claim on the diagram: is it alive?

**Follow Up Questions: Answer in your lab book**

1. What characteristics distinguished the experimental materials as living or nonliving?
2. If we could travel to other solar systems, why would it be difficult to define life based solely on observation? Explain.