**B1 - CHARACTERISTICS OF LIVING THINGS**

1. **List and describe the characteristics of living things.**
2. **Define the terms.**

Use a mnemonic to remember a list, e.g. MRS NERG stands for the first letters of the seven characteristics of living organisms.

MOVEMENT - an action by an organism or part of an organism, causing a change of position or place. Often in response to changes (e.g. the presence of a predator), to find food or a mate. Some parts of some plants can move very slowly, e.g. to obtain more light for photosynthesis.

RESPIRATION - the chemical reactions that break down nutrient molecules in living cells to release energy.

SENSITIVITY (or irritability) - the ability to detect changes in the environment (stimuli) and to make responses to them.

NUTRITION - Obtaining nutrients (organic substances and mineral ions, containing raw materials or energy for growth and tissue repair). Plants make their own food by photosynthesis; animals feed on plants or other animals.

EXCRETION - getting rid of the waste products of metabolism (all the chemical reactions).

REPRODUCTION - producing offspring.

GROWTH – a permanent increase in size and mass of an organism by an increase in cell number or cell size or both.