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# Kentucky Class Notes

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*BIO 103 Krupa*

*Test 1*

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BIO 103 Krupa  
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Test 1

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1/14/10 – Thursday

## The Characteristics of Life

All living things must obtain energy and matter. In order to obtain these things organisms rely on **metabolism**, which is a series of organized chemical steps that breakdown and build molecules. Breaking down molecules in order to generate energy is also necessary and is called **respiration**. On top of these to things, organisms must then exhibit **homeostasis**, which allows them to maintain certain necessary internal conditions.

*The Characteristics of Living Things Include:*

- Energy:
    - Necessary for all living things
    - Obtained through metabolizing.
  - Metabolism
    - **Metabolism** is the organized chemical steps that breaks down and builds up molecules, making energy available for building needed parts. Metabolism also includes the discarding of wastes, eating food and changing of various forms of energy.
  - Responsiveness
    - How organisms perceive and react to the environment.
  - Reproduction
    - Organisms giving rise to other organisms
  - Growth and Development
    - Development = the ordered sequence of progressive changes resulting in increased complexity of an organism
    - Example: the human brain does not finish growing until the age 26, so that explains why people sometimes act in a questionable manner.
  - Heredity
    - Genes are units of inheritance within organisms that are passed from parents to offspring.
  - Organization
    - All things are made up of an organized cell structure
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