

The Story of Martha

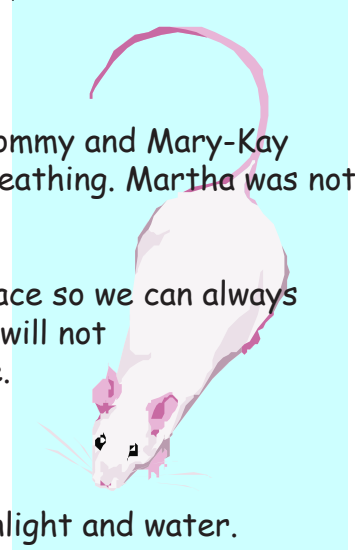
One day, Martha came home to Mommy's house with Annie. Martha lived in her cage in the living room with her friend, Millie.

On Friday, Annie went to Daddy's house, and on Saturday morning, Mommy and Mary-Kay found Martha in her cage. Martha was not moving. Martha was not breathing. Martha was not alive any more. Martha died.

Annie and Mommy and Mary-Kay will put Martha's body in a special place so we can always remember her. We will always love Martha in our hearts, but Martha will not come back. Martha will not be moving in her cage with Millie any more.

What does it mean when something is alive?

Are rainbows alive? No. Rainbows are colors in the sky made from sunlight and water.



Are clouds alive? No clouds are like steam in the air. When steam goes up in in the sky we can see it as clouds, but it is not alive.

What does alive mean? Alive is when something is born, grows, and lives, and one day, it dies.

Are trees alive? Yes.



Trees are born in seeds, like acorns, and they grow and become big, sometimes they have food on them like apples,



bananas,



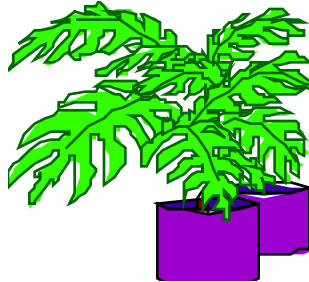
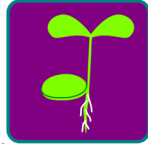
oranges and peaches.



Trees live a long time, and then they die.

Are bushes and flowers alive?

Yes. They all start as seeds or little tiny plants.



All bushes and flowers grow and live and die.

Are animals, fish and bugs alive? Yes.

Are trees, bushes and flowers alive the same way animals are? No.

Why not? Can a tree walk? Can a flower fly? Can a bush swim?

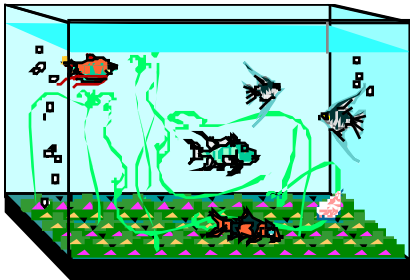
No. Animals, like cats, mice, dogs, giraffes, monkeys, and all other animals can walk on their legs.



Bugs can walk or fly.



Fish can swim.

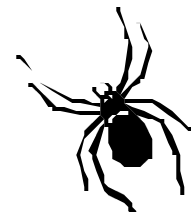


Birds can fly.

Frogs can hop.



Spiders can crawl.
and make webs.
Remember Charlotte?



What can animals and people do that trees, plants and flowers can't do? They can move.

Animals and people are alive. They breathe. They have hearts that beat. They have blood.

When animals and people stop breathing, and their hearts stop beating, that is when they die. Their bodies stop.

Animals and people and all plants have something else called spirit. Spirit is the energy that makes things live, and makes other things like mountains and oceans and rainbows. Sometimes people call the spirit *God*.

God takes care of everything that lives, and everything that is. *God* is in everything, and everything is in *God*.

When plants and animals and people and fish and birds and bugs stop living, they are still always part of *God*.

Martha stopped living, but her spirit is still here. We will put Martha's body in the ground. Her body will go away and become part of the ground. The ground is also part of *God*. We will always love Martha, and think about her spirit, and her spirit will always love us, and will think about us sometimes too, even when we can't see her.