

# Greetings, Family!

Our science class will learn about living things in our unit on Life Science.

You can help make science come alive for your student by allowing him or her to plant flower seeds (such as sunflowers or marigolds) in flower pots or cups of soil, then place these in a sunny window. Give the seeds a little water each day. As the seeds sprout and grow, discuss with your student the life cycle of a plant. Also, you can help your student cut out pictures of plants and animals from old magazines, and sort them into groups based on different characteristics.

For this unit, we will be doing some hands-on activities about plants, animals, and other living things, using the materials listed below. Can you donate or loan any of these items? If so, we need to receive your items by \_\_\_\_\_.

- index cards
- starch
- measuring spoons
- plastic spoons
- sealable plastic bags
- chicken bouillon cubes
- clear plastic cups
- masking tape
- table salt
- beads and buttons
- chenille craft stems
- plastic knives
- tweezers

Thank you very much for your help!



## The Georgia Performance Content Standards covered by this unit are:

**S5L1a** Demonstrate how animals are sorted into groups (vertebrate and invertebrate) and how vertebrates are sorted into groups (fish, amphibian, reptile, bird, and mammal).

**S5L1b** Demonstrate how plants are sorted into groups.

**S5L2a** Compare and contrast the characteristics of learned behaviors and of inherited traits.

**S5L2b** Discuss what a gene is and the role genes play in the transfer of traits.

**S5L3a** Use magnifiers such as microscopes or hand lenses to observe cells and their structure.

**S5L3b** Identify parts of a plant cell (membrane, wall, cytoplasm, nucleus, chloroplasts) and of an animal cell (membrane, cytoplasm, and nucleus) and determine the function of the parts.

**S5L3c** Explain how cells in multi-celled organisms are similar and different in structure and function to single-celled organisms.

**S5L4a** Identify beneficial microorganisms and explain why they are beneficial.

**S5L4b** Identify harmful microorganisms and explain why they are harmful.