Living, dead or never alive: answers

What your child practised: sorting things found in a habitat into living, dead (once alive) and never alive, using two questions (Year 2 science).

Page 1 · Warm up

Ring the **worm**, the **oak tree** and the **owl**.

Page 2 · Try it together

Living: the houseplant, and you. Dead: the fallen leaf, twig, wooden spoon, paper and woolly sock. Never alive: the stone, metal spoon and plastic cup.

Page 2 · A. Sort the letters

Living: **a, e, g** (owl, grass, worm)
Dead: **b, d, h** (log, feather, empty shell)
Never alive: **c, f, i** (stone, metal spoon, glass jar)

Page 3 · B. True or false?

1. **true** · 2. **false** · 3. **true** · 4. **false** (moving isn't a sign of life) · 5. **false** (wood comes from a tree)

Page 3 · C. Detective questions

Wooden spoon: no, yes, it is **dead**.
Metal spoon: no, no, it is **never alive**.

Page 3 · D. Dead log

Any minibeast that lives under logs, such as a woodlouse, worm, beetle or snail.

Challenge: No. Neither is alive now, but the leaf **was** alive once: it grew on a tree, so it is **dead**. The stone was **never alive**. Ask the second detective question: "Was it ever alive?"

Watch out for

- **Mixing up dead and never alive.** A dead leaf was once alive; a rock never was. Always ask both questions.
- **Things made from living things** (wooden spoons, paper, wool). They are dead, because they came from trees or sheep.
- **"It moves, so it's alive."** Water, wind and cars move, but they don't grow, eat or have young.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Walk and spot:** take turns finding one living, one dead and one never-alive thing.
- **Kitchen sort:** a wooden spoon, a metal spoon, a paper napkin, a glass: dead or never alive?
- **In the game:** this is the last chapter. Ask your child to tell you about the woodland habitat they built and who lives there.