

Text-Analysis Activity: Noun Modifiers

Directions: In each sentence, find the nouns described by the underlined noun modifiers. Draw an arrow from each underlined word or words to the modified noun. Some nouns have more than one group of modifiers.

NOTE: The noun appears soon after or shortly before the words describing it.

Most cells are so small that you cannot see them without some kind of magnifying device.

Before the invention of the microscope, people could not see microscopic cells or other tiny things. They thought living things came from nonliving things. For example, it was thought that ordinary flies came from rotting meat. People once thought every egg contained a miniature version of an adult organism. They thought the organism's structures just had to grow bigger as the developing organism grew. After the invention of the microscope, new evidence changed the way people understand the living world.

Reading Comprehension Activity

Directions: After you have read the Characteristics of Life section of your textbook, complete the multiple-choice exercise below. On the line before each question, write the letter of the correct answer.

- _____ 1. What is an organism?
- A. a part of the microscope
 - B. a structure that pumps water out of a cell
 - C. a thing that has all the characteristics of life
- _____ 2. What is the smallest unit of life?
- A. the cell
 - B. the atom
 - C. the species
- _____ 3. Which object describes a multicellular organism?
- A. a paramecium
 - B. a living thing made of one cell
 - C. a living thing made of two or more cells
- _____ 4. Which situation describes a response to an external stimulus?
- A. a person getting thirsty
 - B. a person getting hungry
 - C. a plant growing toward light
- _____ 5. What is homeostasis?
- A. a multicellular organism
 - B. a characteristic of a nonliving thing
 - C. an organism's ability to maintain steady internal conditions