Name Period Date

Unit 1	Handout 4	*Getting Started: What is an organism?*

Purpose	Develop a list of traits common to all living things. Construct a working definition of the word "organism."
Guiding Question	What is an organism?

Vocabulary
Working definition: A definition that may change to accommodate more information as it is discovered.

Procedure: In the first box, write down traits of organisms that you believe they have in common. After discussing this list with the class, revise your list using a different color. Then, write a definition of the term organism using the traits.

For this box you may list traits, they do not need to be full sentences.

List of common traits of organisms

Initial definition of "organism"