Starting the School Year with Kognity

Topic:	1 Characteristics and Classification of Living Organisms

Lesson:	Ready for Action Lesson Plan	**Subject:**	IGCSE Biology

What can I use this lesson plan for?

This is a great lesson plan for introducing students to both the IGCSE Biology curriculum, as well as Kognity's digital textbook features in the beginning of the school year. The activities in this lesson work well with remote or in person learning. As the year progresses, you can use these activities with different sections of the IGCSE Biology digital textbook.

🎯 Lesson Objectives:

Students will be able to apply Kognity's digital textbook features to classroom learning in IGCSE Biology.

🕐 Time Allotment:

Recommended time is *one hour,* however the revision activities provide opportunities for extension

📝 Materials:

1.1.0 (the big picture), 1.1.1 (the seven characteristics of living organisms).

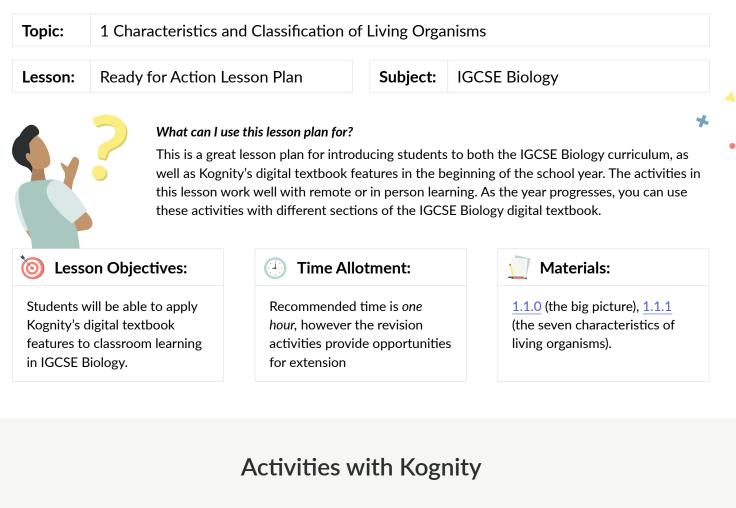# Activities with Kognity

Hook

Tell students they are going to start the unit by doing a pre-assessment in their Kognity textbook to get a sense of how much they know about Topic 1. Students should do the following:

- Head to the practice centre and take the **Strength Test** for Subtopic 1.1 (Characteristics of living organisms).
- Review their completed answers while they wait for classmates to finish.
- Discuss each of the questions as a class.

Introduction Activity

With the overview projected on the board (in person) or through screen share (remote), give a brief introduction of Kognity and the useful features for students, by explaining that:

- The content in each section of the book incorporates features such as **videos, study skills boxes, models,** and **activities** to enhance students' learning.
- Each subtopic has a series of **section questions** that allow students to check their knowledge and understanding in small increments.
- The **practice centre** has exam style questions, strength tests and battles for all topics that allow students to check their knowledge and understanding of each topic. As they engage with the **strength test and battles,** their **strength bar** (on the overview page) will increase, allowing them to keep track of their strong content areas and areas they need to work on.
- Teachers can assign readings and questions and can keep track of student progress.

Group Activity

1. Have students get into groups of three.
2. To practice navigating through Kognity's platform, task students to click to section 1.1.0.
3. Ask students to discuss the purpose of the "big picture," feature at the start of each Subtopic.
4. Ask each group to watch the embedded video in 1.1.1, *The jellyfish's swimming secret? It's a master of suction.* Then, have them discuss the following questions:
    a. How does a jellyfish move through water? What other animal moves in a similar way?
    b. How could the way jellyfish move impact machines?

5. When each group has watched the video and discussed the questions, bring the class together to share their answers.

Independent Activity

1. Have students read section 1.1.1 and complete the worked examples and section questions at the end of the reading.
2. 2. When students are finished, they should define each of the characteristics that make up the mnemonic device, MRS GREN, in the *Study Skills Box* in 1.1.1. They can define each of these characteristics using their Kognity notebooks.

Revision Activities

At the end of subtopic 1.1, there are several possible activities you can do with your class.

- Respond to each checklist bullet point in section 1.1.2 in their Kognity notebooks to test their knowledge and understanding.
- Have students go to the practice centre to take the 1.1 Strength test as a post assessment, or engage in a strength battle with a classmate (These questions encompass all of topic 1).
- Assign your students Practice/Exam-style questions, where they can answer one to two questions for a specific subtopic that has already been discussed in class. These questions are modelled after IB exams and are invaluable when students are preparing for exam papers.
- Create a question or reading assignment on any topic or subtopic. Then, have students head over to the Assignments tab to identify how assignments are presented to them. Now they can complete their first graded homework/activity on Kognity!