**Citation:** Adapted from NSTA publications: Life science Formative Assessments – Page Keeley

Name Hour Date

**Living Nut?**

Two friends went to a grocery store to purchase peanuts. Emily bought peanuts with the shells removed, and Sam bought a bag of peanuts still in the shells. Emily and Sam, along with two of their friends, argued about whether the peanuts were alive.



Emily Sam Here is their conversation:

Emily: Each peanut is a seed. The seeds were packed two years ago. They are dead because they did

not have food, light or energy to maintain life.

Sam: The whole peanut in the shell is a fruit. It was packed two-­‐years ago. It is alive because the hull

protects the seed inside.

Emily’s friend: The peanuts without shells are dead, but the ones with shells are alive.

Sam’s friend: I don’t think the peanuts without shells or the peanuts with shells are alive until they are

planted in the soil.

Which person do you agree with the most? Explain your thinking.



**Characteristics of Life/Cell Theory: It’s Alive or Is It?**