

The Martian and the Car

Characteristics of Life

Oh, a Martian of the Boov was sent to Earth by the Boov government to find life. While on Earth, Oh captured a car and brought it back to Boov government. He thought he found a good example of life on Earth. The Boov government does not believe that the car Oh brought back is alive. Oh must stand trial for failing to perform his Martian Boov duties.



At the trial, Oh spoke in his defense. "I first saw these life forms rolling along roads in great numbers. They were giving off thick clouds of poisonous waste as they moved. They seemed to exhibit herding behavior, as many of the cars moved in the same direction. They appeared to have a great deal of energy, some of them moved faster than 60 kilometers per hour. When one of these life forms stopped or slowed down, the others behind it responded. They slowed down and gave off a reddish light from the back, and sometimes they would make honking noises. I observed that they would stop to feed on a liquid substance."

Take the part of Oh's defense attorney and make a good case for the car's being "alive." Then be the prosecutor and show that the car is a non-living thing. List as many reasons as you can, feel free to use a separate piece of paper.

Defense Attorney

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Prosecuting Attorney

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Combine all of your arguments into a short paragraph that takes a stand on either the prosecutor or the defense attorney. This essay should include specific statements that support your claim that the car is either alive or not alive. Check to make sure all of your statements are in complete sentences.



Write your paragraph here: