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Subject: Re: Pro Life or Pro choice?

Posted by [Dover](#) on Wed, 09 Jan 2008 17:53:05 GMT

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Jecht wrote on Wed, 09 January 2008 02:15: Life begins at conception. Experiments showing the capacity for learning at three months do not ensure life begins there. There are several organisms without the capacity to learn at all, yet are they any less alive?

More learned people than I wrote: Conventional definition: Often scientists say that life is a characteristic of organisms that exhibit the following phenomena:

**Homeostasis:** Regulation of the internal environment to maintain a constant state; for example, sweating to reduce temperature.

**Organization:** Being composed of one or more cells, which are the basic units of life.

**Metabolism:** Consumption of energy by converting nonliving material into cellular components (anabolism) and decomposing organic matter (catabolism). Living things require energy to maintain internal organization (homeostasis) and to produce the other phenomena associated with life.

**Growth:** Maintenance of a higher rate of synthesis than catalysis. A growing organism increases in size in all of its parts, rather than simply accumulating matter. The particular species begins to multiply and expand as the evolution continues to flourish.

**Adaptation:** The ability to change over a period of time in response to the environment. This ability is fundamental to the process of evolution and is determined by the organism's heredity as well as the composition of metabolized substances, and external factors present.

**Response to stimuli:** A response can take many forms, from the contraction of a unicellular organism when touched to complex reactions involving all the senses of higher animals. A response is often expressed by motion, for example, the leaves of a plant turning toward the sun or an animal chasing its prey.

**Reproduction:** The ability to produce new organisms. Reproduction can be the division of one cell to form two new cells. Usually the term is applied to the production of a new individual (either asexually, from a single parent organism, or sexually, from at least two differing parent organisms), although strictly speaking it also describes the production of new cells in the process of growth

The "response to stimuli" is the important part here. Fetuses begin responding at 3 months. Therefore, it's safe to assume before then, they are not alive. Even brain-dead and comatose people respond to certain stimuli. How can you call killing something LESS THAN BRAIN DEAD murder?!

Edit: Really, the issue here isn't "Is it morally right or is it not?". The issue is "is it the government's place to make such a decision for women. I can't think of a single valid argument to make Abortion illegal. Whether or not it's morally okay is neither here nor there."

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