

DIVERSITY OF LIFE

What Is Life?

There are many characteristics that scientists use to determine if something is alive. The characteristics are very specific and are applicable to all of the different species that exist on our planet.

We are surrounded by life almost everywhere a human can go on our planet. Appreciating life is important and studying different species is vital to understanding our environment.

Characteristics of Living Organisms

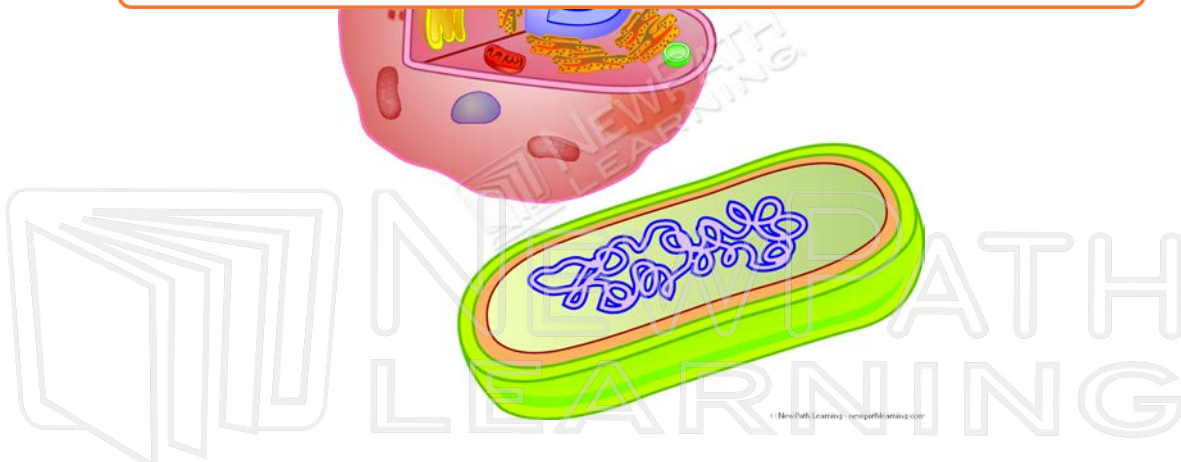
There are certain characteristics of all living organisms on our planet. They:

What have we learned?



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Cells are the basic building blocks of all living organisms.

Needs of Living Things

Living organisms must continually meet four basic needs to stay alive. They must have a **living space, water, energy, and stable internal conditions**.

Plants are autotrophic feeders and animals are heterotrophic feeders.



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Lesson Checkpoint: Why do scientists classify living organisms?

What is Binomial Nomenclature?

Binomial nomenclature is a two-part naming system, with the first part being the **Genus** and the second part being the **Species**. The system clarifies an organism's scientific name and its relationship to other species.

A taxonomic key is a method used to classify organisms by dividing them into different categories at each step in a series of steps.


Levels of Classification

There are different levels of classification that narrow in on a particular species. The relationship between organisms gets closer and closer the lower the level of classification.

There are eight levels used in the classification system. The correct order from the highest level is:

Domain,
Kingdom,
Phylum,
Class,
Order,
Family,
Genus, and

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The names of the six different Kingdom's are as follows: Animals (Animalia), Plants (Plantae), Archaeobacteria, Eubacteria, Fungi, and Protists.