

Origin of Life

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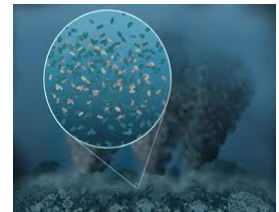
The First Life

Have you ever thought where do we come from?

Many scientist today are engaged in answer that question as they seek for the '[origin of life](#)'.



Ancient fossils, [radiometric dating](#), [phylogenetics](#), and many experiments have helped us to know more about our origins.



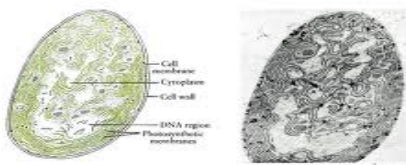
How life originated is gradually being explained by evidence from biology, chemistry, paleontology, and other scientific fields.

Each theory gets modified according to the new proof which means the changes in the theory reflect the process of science only and not evolution itself.

The study of how biological life arises from inorganic [matter](#) through natural processes, and the method by which [life on Earth](#) arose is known as [abiogenesis](#).

When did Life originate?

According to the [Microfossils](#), evidences the life first evolved around 3.5 billion years ago. Microfossils are the very small fossils.



Cyanobacterium - one of the simplest forms of life

These are [fossils](#)

generally not larger than four millimeters, which can be seen through

microscope only. Micropaleontology is the branch of [paleontology](#) that studies [microfossils](#). Some rock specimens form thin microbial structures and the constant addition of mud to it for a certain period became a rock. These structures are known as stromatolites, which found in Australia and South Africa. Cyanobacteria were the first to produce these stromatolites. Till now these stromatolites are produced by microorganisms. These new modern stromatolites and the ancient ones provide information about the [start of life](#).

Both these old and new structures are similar to each other in shape and they show the fine multi-layers in their cross sections.

Cyanobacteria were identified between these layers only.

Where did the life originate?

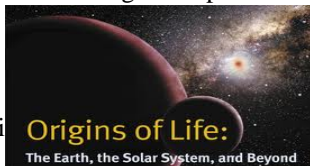
We don't know where life started, but scientists have some theories.

Possible Locations

- Deep sea
- Hot spring
- Tide Pool
- Chemical reactions

Origin of Species and Modern Day Science

In 1859, Charles Darwin's Origin of Species was published. This has the six phases on the modern evolutionary movement.



- (1) Cosmic Evolution (the origin of space, time, matter and energy from nothing);
- (2) Chemical Evolution (the development of the higher elements from hydrogen);
- (3) Stellar and Planetary Evolution (the origin of stars and planets);
- (4) Organic Evolution (the origin of organic life from a rock);
- (5) Macro Evolution (the origin of major kinds);
- (6) Micro Evolution (the variation within the kinds).

Only the sixth phase has been observed and documented.

Want to know more about origin of life? [Click here](#) to schedule live online session with e Tutor!

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Reference Links:

- <http://evolution.berkeley.edu/evosite/evo101/IIIE2aOriginoflife.shtml>

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evolution>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abiogenesis>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByUod2VmBQY&NR=1>
- <http://www.allaboutscience.org/origin-of-life.htm>
- <http://users.rcn.com/jkimball.ma.ultranet/BiologyPages/A/AbioticSynthesis.html>

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