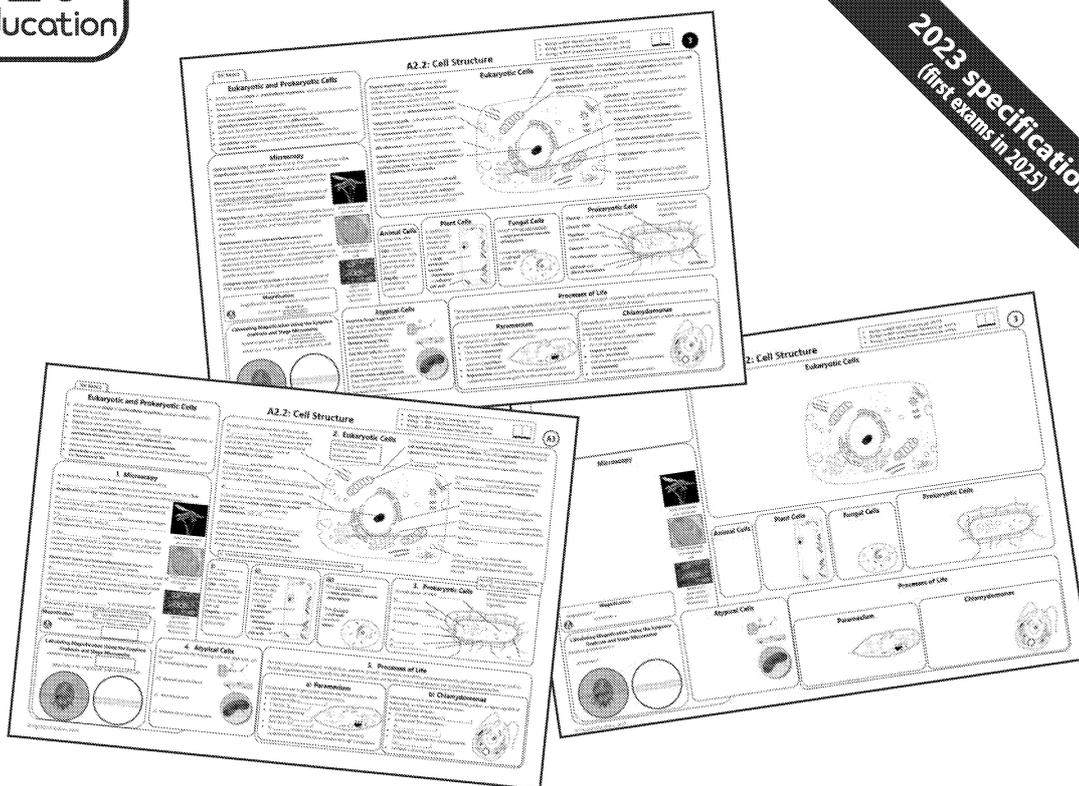


2023 specification  
(first exams in 2025)



# Topic on a Page

for IB Biology:

*Theme A – Unity and Diversity*

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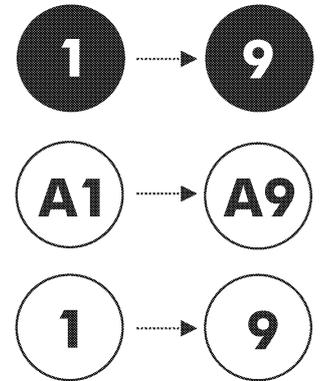
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# Teacher's Introduction

This Topic on a Page resource has been designed to help your students revise the key points of each topic and test their knowledge after you have taught each section of the **IB Biology: Theme A Unity and Diversity** specification from topics 1 to 4. Each page is closely tied to the IB specification, ensuring all aspects of the course are covered.

There are four sections to this resource, each with its own features:

1. **Summary posters:** these are the main pages which intend to clearly consolidate and recap all the key information from the IB Biology course.
2. **Activity worksheets:** these are identical to the Summary posters, but contain a variety of tasks, from filling in missing words to performing calculations. The activity worksheets aim to ensure the student understands all the key knowledge required of them and gives them the opportunity to demonstrate how well they have remembered and understood the content of the course.
3. **Outline-only pages:** these are the Summary posters, but with most of the content removed. Students can research the topics, e.g. for homework, and fill in as much information as they can.
4. **Mark scheme:** full answers for the activity worksheets.



The Summary posters, Activity worksheets and Outline-only pages are designed to be A3 size, although they are still useable at A4 with no loss of detail. If using at A4 size, we suggest photocopying each A3 'worksheet' (for writing answers) as a double-sided A4 page to avoid shrinking the space available for answers.

Each page presents information in a variety of ways, including:

- **Key terms** – key terms are identified in bold type. Students should be encouraged to make a glossary of these key terms and ensure that they know the exact meaning of each one.
- **Bullet point processes** – complex processes and lists have been summarised into quick, easy-to-learn points.
- **Illustrative diagrams** – detailed diagrams that visually represent a concept.
- **Exam tips** – aid memorisation, revision and exam technique in areas where students typically struggle.
- **Textbook links** – allow students to refer to specific, related material in the major textbooks: *Biology for the IB Diploma Programme* (Hodder Education), *Higher Level Biology for the IB Diploma Programme* (Pearson Education) and *2023 Edition Biology Course Companion* (Oxford University Press).



Additional higher level content has been marked with this symbol for easy reference. Note that some subtopics are HL only.

We hope you find these pages useful during your teaching and your students' revision.

## Students' Introduction

This Topic on a Page resource is designed to help you revise the 2023 IBDP Biology at A3 size, but detail is still clear at A4.

There are four sections to this resource, each with its own features:

1. **Summary posters:** these are the main pages, with key words shown in bold, identified with darker backgrounds and a symbol, plenty of diagrams, and applied concepts. It is recommended that you make a glossary of all of the key terms important that you make sure you can define and describe each word!
2. **Activity worksheets:** these are identical to the Summary posters, but with questions from filling in missing words to sketching graphs.
3. **Outline-only pages:** these are similar to summary posters, but with most of the content removed, giving you the chance to research the topics and fill in as much information as you can.
4. **Mark scheme:** this has the answers for every question in the activity worksheets given to each answer. It also says what answers would and would not be accepted, so make sure you get it right on the day!

The basic way of using this resource to revise is to read a page, cover it, complete the worksheet, and then check your answers, using either the main topic page or the outline-only page – it's up to you! Other ways of using this resource to revise include:

- copying boxes onto flash cards
- using the key words to make mind maps
- colouring in boxes once you are confident you know them
- keeping track of revision by colouring in the activity page numbers once you have completed them
- copying out diagrams, tables and graphs and testing your knowledge complete
- or just wallpaper your room with them and keep looking at them bit by bit!

We hope you find these pages useful during your revision and good luck with your

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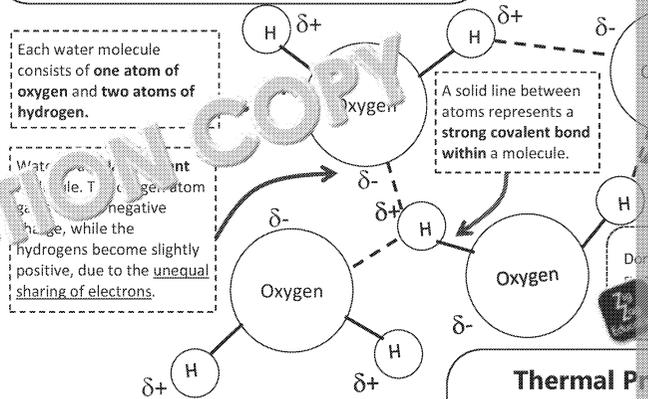
THE BASICS

Water

- Due to its unique properties, water is the medium for life.
- The polar covalent bonds within water molecules lead to hydrogen bonds between water molecules, and between water molecules and other substances leading to many of water's unique properties.
- Earth's water has an extraplanetary origin.
- The 'Goldilocks zone' represents the region of a solar system which could contain planets with liquid water, and refers to the habitable zone around a star.

A1.1: Water

Molecular Structure of Water

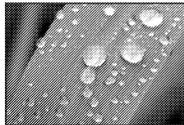


Cohesion and Adhesion

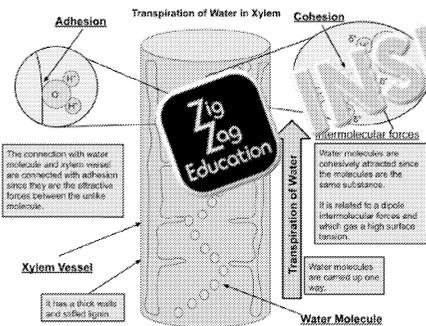
Cohesion is the force between water molecules. It is generated by hydrogen bonds which form between the hydrogen atoms and oxygen atoms of different water molecules.

Cohesion generates the high surface tension of water, which is important for many small aquatic organisms which make water their habitat.

Adhesion is the force of attraction between a water molecule and another material, such as the cellulose which plant cell walls are made of.

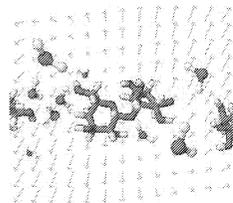


Cohesion and adhesion work in combination in capillary action; this is when water is drawn up a vessel in a narrow column, due to strong force of cohesion created between water molecules, and the strong force of adhesion created between the water molecules and the material of the vessel walls. The most obvious biological use for this is transport in plants, but it also allows water to soak up through soils making it available to plants, and allows our tears to drain through our tear ducts.



Water as the Universal Solvent

Due to its polar nature, water is an excellent solvent. Ionic molecules such as salts are easily 'pulled apart' by water due to the attraction the ions have with different parts of the water molecule. Small organic molecules such as sugar also dissolve easily in water due to the hydrogen bonding which forms between the individual sugar molecules and the water.



Solution of sucrose in water

This means that water is an excellent medium for life, allowing:

- reactions between dissolved molecules; thus essential for metabolism
- easy transport of dissolved molecules (e.g. mineral ions, nutrients, and hormones in the blood)
- holding many dissolved substances in the same space (e.g. a cell)

Molecules which dissolve easily in water are known as hydrophilic, while those which do not (usually lipid-based molecules) are known as hydrophobic.

Application

Emulsion Test

- Add ethanol, shake
- Add water, shake
- Turns cloudy if lipids are present

Why does the emulsion test for lipids work? What is happening which causes the mixture to turn cloudy?

Thermal Properties

The specific heat capacity of water is 4200 J/(kg·°C); it takes 4200 J to raise the temperature of 1 kg of water by just 1 °C. This is why the temperature of aquatic organisms themselves is relatively constant. Water also has a relatively low thermal conductivity. This is why water becomes hypothermic.

Buoyancy

Due to the strong attraction between water molecules, water is quite dense for its weight. This helps marine organisms which helps marine organisms stay at their depth under water.

Water acts as a metabolic medium.

- Condensation reactions (e.g. cellulose, structural proteins)
- Condensation reactions (e.g. starch and glycogen)
- Hydrolysis reactions

Application: Cellulose

- Black-throated loon
- Lighter but non-hollow feathers also allow the loon to float
- Adaptations to the high viscosity of water make it difficult for loons to move
- Interlocking feather shafts generates a barrier to water and provides insulation

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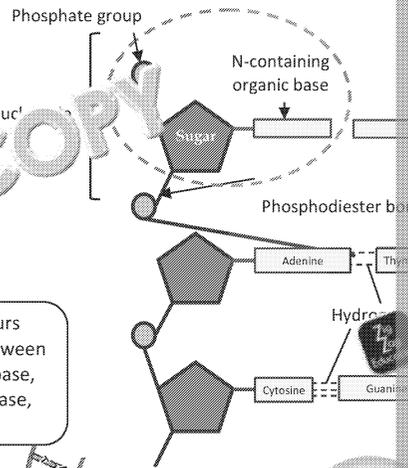


# A1.2: Nucleic Acids

## DNA and RNA

- DNA is the **genetic material** in all organisms, while the **genetic code** is shared by all known life. This universality is evidence for the shared ancestry of all life on Earth.
- A **nucleotide** consists of a sugar (**deoxyribose** or **ribose**), a **phosphate group**, and a **nitrogenous base** (**adenine, guanine, cytosine, thymine** (DNA only), or **uracil** (RNA only)).
- The bases form a code, while **complementary base pairing** ensures accurate transfer of this code.
- The possible diversity in the sequence of bases is effectively infinite.

- Bonding between **purines** and **pyrimidines** helps to ensure genetic stability.
- The work of multiple scientists, including Hershey, Chase and Chargaff, provided evidence which allows us to understand the structure and processes involving DNA.



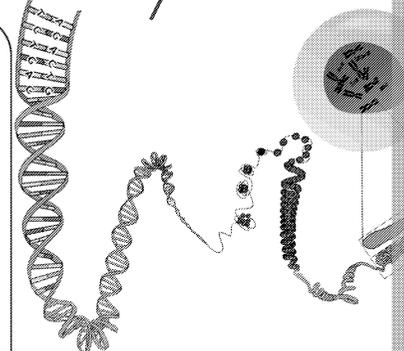
**Polymerisation** of nucleic acids occurs through condensation reactions between the phosphate of one DNA or RNA base, and the pentose sugar of the next base, forming the phosphodiester bond.

DNA consists of a sequence of four bases, which can occur in any order, while the DNA molecule can be any length. The number of possible sequences in a DNA molecule can be mathematically calculated using the formula  $4^n$ , where  $n$  is simply the length of the DNA molecule in terms of the number of bases.

e.g. for a molecule 8 base pairs long:

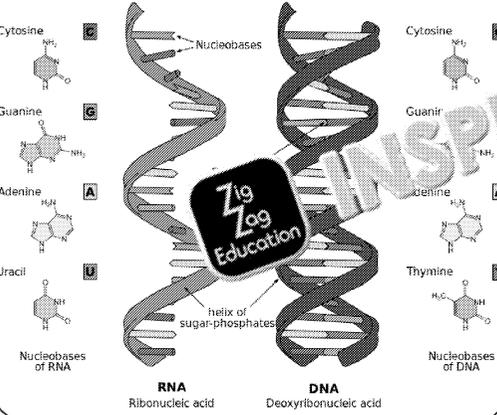
$$4^8 = 65\,536 \text{ possible sequences}$$

This means that DNA can effectively store an infinite amount of information.



## RNA vs. DNA Structure

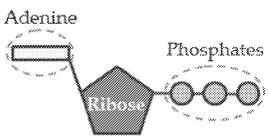
- | Ribonucleic acid (RNA)                                   | Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)  |
|--|--|
| • <b>Ribose</b> sugar                                    | • <b>Deoxyribose</b> sugar   |
| • <b>Uracil</b>  | • <b>Thymine</b>   |
| • Short, single chain                                    | • Long, double-stranded helix  |
| • Temporary less-stable molecule                         | • Long-lived stable molecule   |
| • Transfers genetic information during protein synthesis | • Stores genetic information   |
| • A structural component of <b>ribosomes</b>             | • Can exist in association with <b>histone</b> proteins to form <b>chromatin</b> (the material <b>chromosomes</b> are made of) |
| • Three main kinds: rRNA, mRNA and tRNA                  |  |



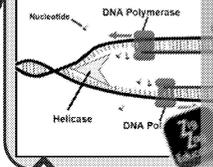
## ATP

**Adenosine triphosphate (ATP)** is very similar in structure to an RNA nucleotide. Through hydrolysis, it provides an **immediate** source of energy for cells.

- Used in:
- muscle contraction
  - nerve cells
  - active transport
  - metabolic processes



Whether in DNA replication or transcription, DNA synthesis always occurs in the **5' to 3' direction**. This is known as **semiconservative replication**.



Scientist	Contribution
Hershey and Chase	Used radiolabelled proteins and DNA to show that DNA is the genetic material.
Chargaff	Used paper chromatography to show that the amount of adenine equals the amount of thymine, and the amount of guanine equals the amount of cytosine.

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## Eukaryotic and Prokaryotic Cells

- All life exists as **single** or **multicellular organisms**, and all cells have certain features in common.
- New cells arise from pre-existing cells.
- **Viruses** are non-cellular and therefore non-living.
- Cells have **specialised organelles**, a large quantity of a particular organelle, or **specialised structures** to adapt them to **different roles**.
- Cells can be studied with **optical** or **electron microscopes**.
- Advances in microscope technologies have led to new discoveries.
- **Unicellular** organisms have unique methods and structures for carrying out the **functions of life**.

### Microscopy

**Optical microscopy** uses light and can look at 'live' cells but has **low magnification** and **low resolution** compared to electron microscopes.

**Electron microscopes** use a beam of electrons for magnification, but use a dead sample in a vacuum, therefore cannot be used to view movement of cells.

A **scanning electron microscope (SEM)** provides 3D images of an object's surface, while **transmission electron microscopy (TEM)** generates an internal cross section.

**Freeze-fracture** uses -190 °C liquefied propane to rapidly freeze a sample. It is then cut, etched (by evaporating a small amount of water from the surface), and coated (with a thin layer of metal).

**Fluorescent stains and immunofluorescence** allow us to see the location of specific molecules in a sample. Fluorescent stains have been used for many years, but not all substances can absorb these stains. Immunofluorescence is an advanced form of this technique using antibodies tagged with a fluorescent dye to identify the presence and location of specific proteins in a sample.

**Cryogenic electron microscopy** is an advanced method of TEM which allows for 3D imaging of molecular structures.

#### Magnification

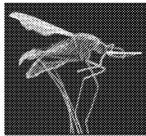
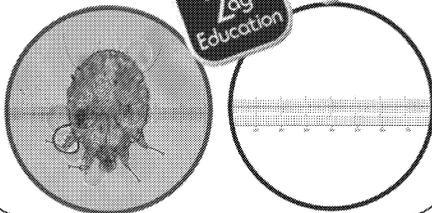
Magnification = (eyepiece lens) × (objective lens)

$$\text{Actual size} = \frac{\text{Image size}}{\text{Magnification}}$$



### Calculating Magnification Using the Eyepiece Graticule and Stage Micrometer

eyepiece graticule unit =  $\frac{\text{micrometer unit}}{\text{graticule unit}}$   
 actual size = no. of graticule units × actual size of micrometer unit



SEM micrograph of a mosquito



TEM micrograph of a eukaryotic cell



Spinal cord grey matter under immunofluorescence

## A2.2: Cell Structure

### Eukaryotic Cells

**Plasma membrane** – found on the outside surface of the cell, the **plasma membrane** includes many proteins, and controls movement of substances into and out of the cell. Other membranes are found surrounding the organelles, such as mitochondria and vacuoles.

**Temporary vacuole** – a small, fluid-filled sac, used in plant cells for digestion.  
**Permanent vacuole** in a plant cell stores salts and sugars and helps to maintain turgidity.

**80s ribosomes** – carry out protein synthesis

**Nucleus** – surrounded by a double membrane with **pores** known as the **nuclear membrane** or **nuclear envelope**, the nucleus contains the **chromosomes**, and a **nucleolus**

Cells show variation regarding the **cell wall**:  
 Animal cells (as shown) do not have cell walls. Plants cells have rigid walls with **cellulose** polymers that provide protection and support. Fungal cells have cell walls made of chitin.

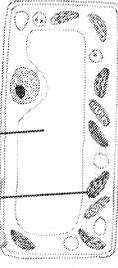


### Animal Cells

Animal cells also sometimes have:  
**Cilia** – these hair-like structures help to move mucus or other liquids past the cell  
**Flagella** – used for locomotion in sperm cells

### Plant Cells

In addition to the organelles shown in the animal cell, plant cells have:  
 - a **large permanent vacuole**  
 - **chloroplasts**  
 - **cell wall**



### Fungal Cells

Fungal cells have:  
 - a **large permanent vacuole**  
 - **chloroplasts**  
 - **cell wall** (made of **chitin**)

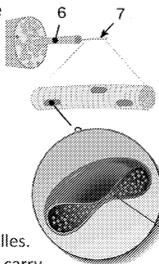
### Prokaryotic Cells

**Bacterial cells** do not abide by cell theory, due to the lack of end walls, forming **multinucleate filaments**.

**Skeletal muscle fibres** are also multinucleate.

**Red blood cells** do not abide by cell theory. They are incapable of dividing to form new cells, as they are lacking a nucleus.

**Phloem sieve tube elements** have cytoplasm, but lack organelles. They require companion cells to carry out most functions.



The processes of homeostasis, metabolism, and reproduction are used to identify organisms as living. Unicellular organisms can be either prokaryotic or eukaryotic.

### Paramecium

Paramecium are single-celled 'animal-like' organisms that are heterotrophic. Unique features include:

- Cytosome (for **nutrition**)
- Cilia (for **movement**)
- Enzyme-containing vacuoles (**nutrition**)
- Anal pore (**excretion**)
- **Reproduction** occurs via fission, with the process supported by horizontal gene transfer.



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# A2.1: Origins of Cells & A2.2: Cell Structure

## - additional higher level only

### THE BASICS

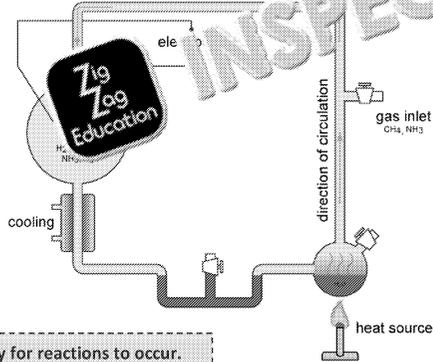
#### How could life begin?

- The early **atmosphere** was very different from what it is like today.
- The first **cells** represent the first life.
- There is evidence supporting the **spontaneous generation** of various cell components: including carbon compounds (Miller–Urey experiment), RNA, and vesicles.

#### The Miller–Urey Experiment

##### Replicating the early atmosphere.

A mixture of CH<sub>4</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub> and H<sub>2</sub> was placed in a 5L flask in the ratio 2:2:1, while H<sub>2</sub>O was evaporated from a smaller flask.



##### The evidence.

The water collecting gradually changed from clear, to pink, to dark red, and became increasingly turbid. Chromatography of the mixture proved the presence of 3–5 amino acids.

##### Provision of energy for reactions to occur.

An electrical spark was continuously discharged from two electrodes to simulate the frequent lightning expected to occur in conditions on the early Earth.

##### Collecting the molecules.

The apparatus was cooled so that water vapour condensed and collected in a u-shaped tube at the bottom of the apparatus.

Recent repeats of this experiment have yielded many more amino acids, probably due to more advanced detection methods.

#### Conditions on Earth

Earth formed roughly 4.5 billion years ago. Gases would have had a very different atmosphere to what it is today.

- Very little, if any, free oxygen
- High levels of UV radiation
- High levels of CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> (leading to high temperatures)

Ocean chemistry is also likely to have been quite different, with pH significantly from as low as pH 5 to as high as pH 11.

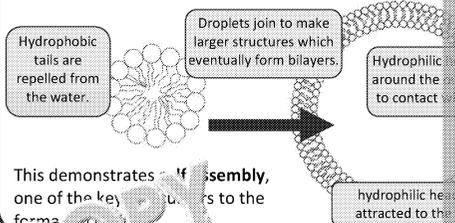
Such conditions may have allowed a variety of carbon compounds to be formed that would not be possible today.

- High levels of UV could have provided the activation energy for reactions to occur spontaneously today.
- Frequent lightning could also have been a source of energy.
- Pre-biotic carbon compounds** could have formed in a variety of environments: droplets, hydrothermal vents, and hot springs.

#### Vesicle Formation

**Compartmentalisation**, the separation of cell components from an external environment, is an essential precursor to life. This function could have been carried out by **vesicles** which spontaneously formed.

Phospholipids naturally form vesicles in water due to their **amphipathic** properties.



This demonstrates **self-assembly**, one of the key precursors to the formation of life.

### THE BASICS

#### Last Universal Common Ancestor

- The **universal genetic code** and **shared genes** found in all known organisms provide strong evidence for the existence of a **LUCA**.
- The **LUCA** is expected to have existed around 3.4–4.5 bya
- Evidence points towards the **LUCA** evolving around 3.4–4.5 bya

The **universality of the genetic code** supports the theory that all life on Earth is descended from a single common ancestor species (**LUCA**).

Certain cellular processes are carried out in all cells and are supported by **enzymes** or **sections of RNA** which remain very similar in all extant organisms, from bacteria to humans. This further supports the idea of a **universal common ancestor**.

Rocks dating to around 3.4 bya have been shown to contain fossil-like structures. Isotopic analysis of these 'fossils' also suggests they formed from once living material. Meanwhile stromatolites (rock formations formed by colonies of cyanobacteria) have been dated to 3.4 bya. It is important to note that other early life may have pre-existed LUCA, but was later outcompeted by LUCA. Estimates for when LUCA existed range from 3.4 to 4.5 bya.

Due to their presence in modern-day bacteria and archaea it is thought that LUCA possessed genes for anaerobic metabolism and nitrogen fixation. This suggests that LUCA could have evolved around hydrothermal vents which have high concentrations of hydrogen, and iron sulfide.

#### The First RNA

DNA has several advantages to RNA as a genetic storage molecule, but RNA is capable of performing many more functions.

RNA could have performed the function of **catalysis**, providing control over reactions essential to the first life.

It is also capable of **self-replication** – an essential precursor to life and the means to inheritance and replication of successful variants.

Some RNA enzymes (**ribozymes**) have been found in modern cells.

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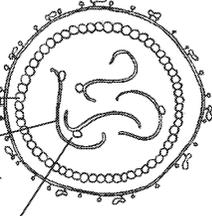
THE BASICS

Viruses

- All life exists as single or multicellular organisms, and all cells have certain features in common.
- Viruses are non-cellular and therefore non-living.
- Viruses cannot perform many of the functions of life and must use host cells to replicate.
- Viruses can usually only be studied with electron microscopes due to their size.
- Viruses replicate through means of the lytic and lysogenic cycles.
- Viral genomes are very small and highly diverse.
- Some viruses evolve rapidly causing challenges for effective vaccination and treatment.

Viruses are extremely small and do not have certain features: Viruses are extremely small (20–300 nm) and have a small size – they cannot grow.

Viral nucleic acids are enclosed in a protein coat called the **capsid**. These nucleic acids (DNA or RNA) can be either **single** or **double stranded**, and contain a small number of genes (as low as 4) in comparison to even the simplest of bacteria.



Viruses may or may not have **enzymes** – if present these are **few in number** and usually attached to the DNA ready to convert it into RNA once in a host cell.

There is no **cytoplasm**. Some viruses are encapsulated in a cell membrane from the host organism.

The lipid envelope contains **attachment proteins** that allow the virus to identify and attach to a host cell. These may also be **antigens**, surface molecules specific to the virus which allow it to be recognised by the immune system.

Origins of Viruses

The exact origin of viruses is unknown. The simplicity of viruses leads to the conclusion that they were the first to evolve. However, their extreme variation in size and their genetic material (either DNA or RNA, single stranded or double stranded) makes it likely they have existed on more than one occasion.

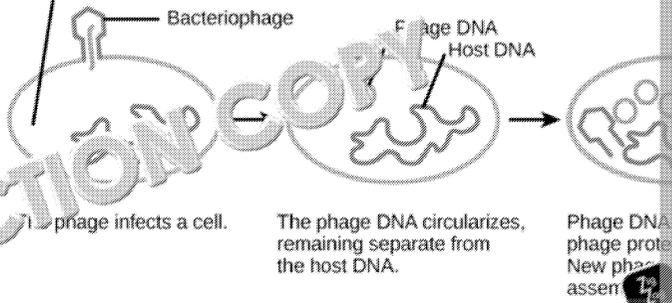
Theories of viral origins include:

- Virus-first hypothesis
- Escaped genes hypothesis
- Regressive hypothesis

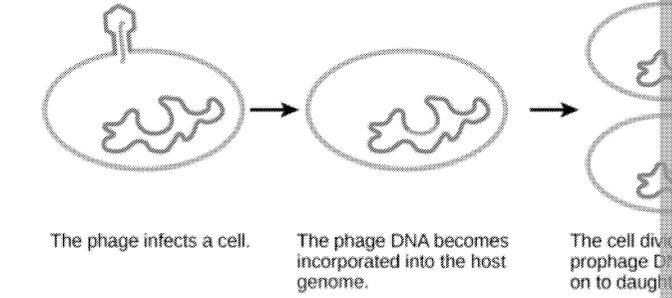
All viruses share an extreme form of obligate parasitism. This means that similarities in their function could be due to convergent evolution.

HL A2.3: Viruses (additional higher level)

Lytic Cycle

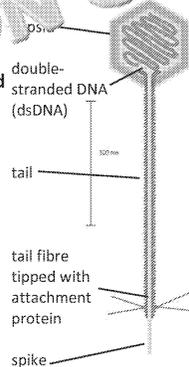


Lysogenic Cycle



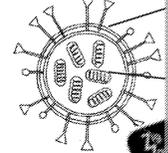
Bacteriophage Lambda

The bacteriophages were the earliest group of viruses to be discovered. They are **non-enveloped** viruses, and contain double-stranded DNA. They are very small and use various bacterial cells as their hosts.



Coronaviruses

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some of which are well known, including the common cold, flu, and the virus which caused the COVID-19 pandemic.



Coronaviruses are **enveloped** single-stranded RNA (ssRNA) viruses which infect animals quickly due to the use of RNA replication. This enzyme 'proofread' like DNA polymerase. Replication, which easily occurs due to the virus containing multiple RNA molecules, is seen in flu and swine flu, as well as SARS and

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THE BASICS



### Diversity of Organisms

- There is great variation both within and between species.
- Genetic similarity between organisms indicates relatedness.
- The binomial naming of organisms includes both the genus and species name, and provides a standard which can be understood by scientists globally.
- Members of the same species are able to breed and produce healthy fertile offspring.
- Chromosome numbers and karyotypes are a key identifying feature of species.
- Genome sequencing has advanced dramatically in recent decades, having multiple present and future uses.

- Asexual reproduction and horizontal gene transfer (in bacteria) generate issues for the biological species concept.
- Dichotomous keys are a structure to support the identification of a given area or taxonomic group.
- Environmental DNA and DNA barcodes can be used to identify the presence of a species in a sample area.



## A3.1 Diversity of Organisms

### Variation

There is always **variation** between individuals, even when they are of the same species. **Characteristics** can have a purely **genetic** cause, or be fully or partly influenced by the environment. For example, monozygotic twins have different amounts of exercise. Sometimes, genetically controlled characteristics of different species look very different. This is known as **sexual dimorphism**.

The image below shows the male and female of two different species. Pictures e and f show the male and female of *Heterochelus detritus*. This image demonstrates variation between different species, and one type of **intraspecific** variation between members of the same species. If we think about humans, we can see examples of intraspecific variation, such as hair colour, eye colour, height, weight, etc. Some of this variation is inherited, while some is influenced by our environment.

### Environmental DNA, and genetic barcoding

DNA barcodes are sequences of DNA from within a gene which are distinctive between species. When DNA is extracted from the environment, such as in a water or soil sample, these sequences allow scientists to identify which species are present in the environment. This technology is extremely useful for ecology and conservation.

Each species has a unique chromosome number.

The human karyotype of two chromosomes is shown. It is likely that two chromosomes became fused during human evolution.

The two subspecies of the human chromosome are an example of where part of the chromosome is upside down.

The banding pattern of the centromere is consistent with the number of chromosomes and it can be used to identify species.

### Naming Organisms



#### *Hemidactylus frenatus*

The **genus name** is given first, with a capital letter. Species in the same genus share many features in common. There are over 190 described species in this genus.

The **species name** comes second and does not begin with a capital letter. Organisms within a species share other features in common which are not shared by other members of the genus.

Both the genus name and species name should be typed in *italics*, or underlined if handwritten.

### Biological Species Concept

The biological species concept is used to determine whether two populations belong to the same species. If they can interbreed and produce fertile offspring, they are of the same species.

However, if they do not mate due to differences in mate recognition, or the offspring are infertile, they are said to be different species.

### Difficulties Applying the Biological Species Concept

**Defining a species** is difficult if two species occasionally produce fertile offspring (e.g. horses and donkeys) or are in the process of **speciation**.



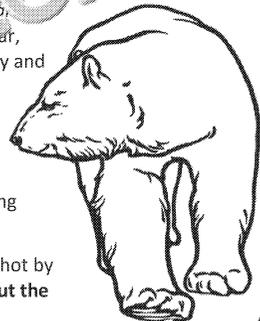
Crosses between species often form. The hybrid is as the parents have different numbers of chromosomes, and cannot produce viable gametes.

### Application: *Ursus maritimus*: Species or Subspecies?

The polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) and the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), of which there are three main subspecies (Eurasian brown bear, grizzly bear, and Kodiak bear) are quite different in morphology and lifestyle, with the former adapted for life in Arctic waters and on Arctic ice.

Due to climate change the polar bear range is being pushed southwards, with bears forced to find food on land in the absence of ice. Meanwhile the brown bear's range is expanding northwards as mean temperatures rise.

Surprisingly many F1 and F2 hybrid bears have been seen or shot by hunters in the past few decades. **What does this suggest about the relatedness of these two bears?**



### Genomes

- The **genome** is the entire genetic sequence of an organism.
- Genome sequencing began with certain bacteria.
- The human genome project then began in 1990. The mapping of the human genome wasn't 100% complete until 2003.
- Many thousands of individual human genomes have been sequenced. 100 million **single nucleotide polymorphisms** (SNPs) are known to differ in more than 1% of the population. Most SNPs are rare, but a sequence can also occur, usually resulting in a loss of function.
- Geneticists have now sequenced the genomes of many organisms. That it is now much quicker, and much cheaper. It now costs less than \$1000 for each complete genome.
- By understanding the genome, diseases with genetic causes can lead to personalised medicine.
- Sequencing of other organisms has greatly improved our understanding of evolution.

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# A3.2: Classification and Cladistics (additional higher level)

THE BASICS

## Classification and Cladistics

- Classification facilitates a variety of biological studies, allowing predictions to be made based on the **relatedness** of organisms.
- It is often difficult to fit organisms into the traditional taxonomic hierarchy, with **unranked 'clades'** now being used in most taxonomic studies.
- Traditionally classification was based on **morphology**.
- DNA technology** has led to advances and changes in taxonomic understanding, as it provides direct evidence of mutations.
- The gradual accumulation of mutations can be used as a **'molecular clock'** to determine when different clades diverged from one another.
- The node of a cladogram represents the **common ancestor** of all organisms within the consequent clade.
- The highest level of classification consists of three domains of life, classified according to rRNA gene sequences (bacteria, eukaryota, and eukaryota).



## The Molecular Clock

The molecular clock is based on the concept that DNA mutations occur at a relatively constant rate. By examining the number of differences between the base sequences of two related organisms we can estimate how long ago they are likely to have shared a common ancestor.

## Applying Classification

Traditional classification is based on morphology, but this can be misleading due to **convergent evolution**.

The rock hyrax looks a lot like a rodent, and even behaves very much like a ground squirrel. Its feet and teeth make it clear that it does not belong in this taxonomic group, even in traditional methodology. However, it was quite an enigma until DNA evidence revealed it to be a relative of elephants.



Rock hyrax  
(*Procavia capensis*)

The Chiroptera (bats) are one group of mammals which have been difficult to place under traditional morphological methods, with various theories as to their evolutionary origins. The significant differences between the smaller insectivorous bats (traditionally classified under the suborder Microchiroptera) and the large fruit-eating bats (traditionally classified under the suborder Megachiroptera) led to their classification as members of the Archonta, a mammalian superorder including primates and colugos. At the same time, some scientists proposed that all mammals evolved twice in mammals, with the mammals being divided into primates, and the microbats belonging to insectivores.



Spectacled flying fox  
(*Pteropus conspicillatus*)  
A member of the  
unranked clade Megachiroptera

DNA evidence has led to the classification of Chiroptera and Archonta being abandoned in favor of **monophyletic** groupings. Chiroptera are now placed in the Laurasiatheria with even-toed ungulates, carnivores, and pangolins. The Chiroptera itself has also been split differently, based on DNA evidence, with the unranked clade Rhinolophoidea placed within the unranked clade Yinpterochiroptera.



## Phylogenetic Classification and Taxonomy

Analysing **phylogenetic relationships** allow life to be classified into a **taxonomic hierarchy**. For example, red deer would be classified as follows:

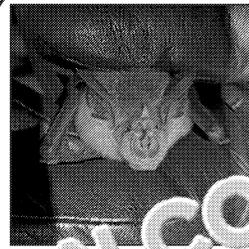
Eukarya — Animalia — Mammalia — Artiodactyla — Cervidae — Red deer Kingdom — Phylum — Class — Order — Family

Remember that according to scientific naming convention the binomial name of a species should be used in any scientific context, with both the genus name and species name typed in **italics**, or underlined if handwritten. The red deer should therefore be *Cervus elaphus*.

Species can look very similar; for example, an okapi looks like a cross between a horse and a zebra, but is actually the closest relative of giraffes. The **inaccuracy of anatomical classification** makes it necessary to compare **DNA, mRNA or amino acid** sequences in order to determine accurate evolutionary relationships.

There are **three domains** in the highest taxonomic rank:

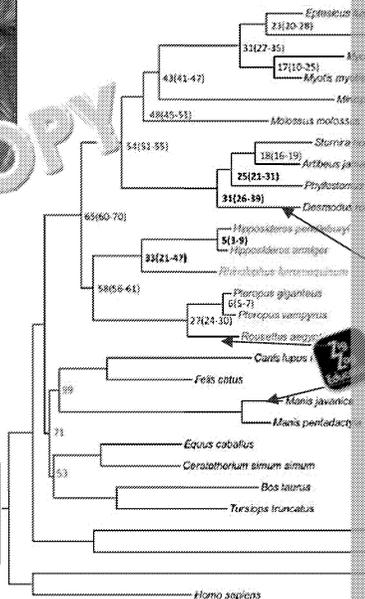
Bacteria	Archaea	Eukarya
Single-celled prokaryotes	Single-celled prokaryotes	Single-celled eukaryotes
Small 70s ribosomes	Small 70s ribosomes	Large 80s ribosomes
Murein cell walls	Non-murein cell walls	Cellulose cell walls



Shoebat  
(*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*)  
A member of the **unranked**  
clade Rhinolophoidea

Spectacled flying fox  
(*Pteropus conspicillatus*)  
A member of the  
**unranked** clade Megachiroptera

The **root** represents a common ancestor of all organisms shown in a cladogram and is found at the base.



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### Evolution and Speciation

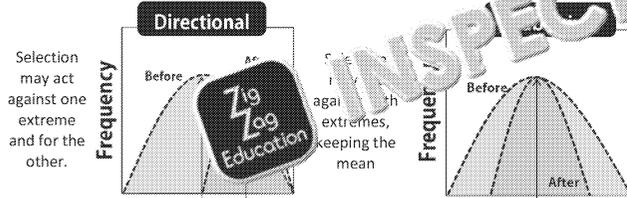
- Evolution is a gradual change in the inherited characteristics of a population.
- **Phenotypic variation**, DNA and RNA sequences, and amino acid sequences in specific proteins all provide evidence for evolution.
- Easily observable evidence for evolution includes **selective breeding** (aka artificial selection) and **homologous structures**, while **analogous structures** provide evidence for **convergent** evolution.
- **Speciation** is the generation of new species often occurring through **differential selection** and supported by **reproductive isolation**.
- There are two major forms of speciation, **allopatric** and **sympatric**, which have both similarities and differences.
- **Adaptive radiation** occurs to fill vacant niches in a new or heavily degraded ecosystem, and leads to an increase in species.
- Pre-zygotic and post-zygotic **reproductive isolation** mechanisms prevent the mixing of alleles between species.
- **Hybridisation** and **polyploidisation** can disrupt speciation.

### Derived Acquired Traits

- Traits which are used to distinguish an evolutionary line are known as derived traits. For example, feathers are a derived trait used to distinguish birds from reptiles, and used to classify birds as a single clade with a shared ancestor.
- There are different theories which have been used in the past to explain inheritance of traits. Two theories of note are:
  - **Lamarckism**: **John Baptiste Lamarck** (1744–1829) theorised that traits **acquired** during a lifetime, for example a blacksmith's strong arm muscles, would be passed to the next generation.
  - **Darwinism**: originating from **Charles Darwin's** (1809–1882) theory of evolution, **Darwinism** states that individuals who possess beneficial traits (via means of mutation and inheritance) are more likely to pass these traits to the next generation (by producing more offspring). Traits are **derived** through mutation and **inherited** from our parents.

### Natural Selection

- There is significant variation in every population; a lot of which is heritable (i.e. caused by genetics, not the environment).
- Specific variants offer benefit to some individuals, e.g. they might be bigger, stronger, or more attractive to a mate.
- The differing ability of individuals in a single population to survive and reproduce is termed **differential reproductive success**.
- If an allele offers an organism an advantage, it is therefore more likely to be **inherited** (passed on to the next generation). There are also likely to be more individuals in the next generation which carry this allele. This leads to an increase in **allele frequency**. The process that leads to this change in allele frequency is called **natural selection**.
- The direction in which this change in allele frequency occurs is known as a **selective pressure**. This is determined by the environment in which the population lives. The same trait may be advantageous in one environment but disadvantageous in another.
- Selection pressures may be directional, stabilising or disruptive.



### Selective breeding

Evolution isn't always a natural process. Humans often control breeding between organisms to produce new breeds for a particular purpose. This is sometimes called **artificial selection**. Wolves were domesticated to form domestic dogs, which have now been selectively bred to form over 100 distinct breeds, such as the Border collie (for sheep herding), the St. Bernard (for mountain rescue), and terriers (for catching rodents). The wild mustard was selectively bred to form all cruciferous vegetables including the cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussel sprouts and kohlrabi.



## A4.1: Evolution and Speciation

### Evidence for Evolution

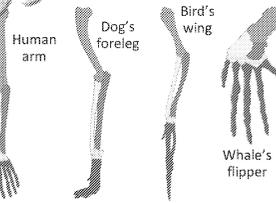
#### Comparing sequences

DNA, RNA and amino acid sequences allow us to identify mutations, in turn allowing us to track inheritance and the level of the relationship between individuals or populations.

#### Homologous Structures

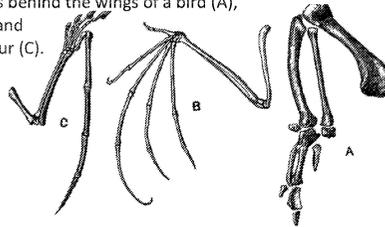
Homologous structures are formed from the same starting point but they represent different evolutionary journeys to achieve different functions.

The image shows how the basic skeletal structure of the **pentadactyl limb**, found in all tetrapods, has been modified into the human arm, a dog's foreleg, a bird's wing, and a whale's flipper.



#### Analogous Structures

**Analogous structures** may look superficially similar due to evolving for the same function, but have different evolutionary origins. The image shows the differing skeletal structures behind the wings of a bird (A), a bat (B) and a pterosaur (C).



### Gene pool

Term used to describe the collection of all genes present in all individuals in a population.

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- Adaptive radiation of forming many new species
- following a major event
  - when a single species

Hybridisation among chromosome number such hybrids are able to form new species.

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## A4.2: Conservation of Biodiversity

### Conservation of Biodiversity

- **Biodiversity** is the variation which exists among living things. It includes genetic, species, and ecosystem level components.
- Biodiversity has an overall upward trend over time.
- **Mass extinction** events have caused dramatic and sudden drops in diversity, followed by periods of diversification.
- Human activities are causing a **biodiversity crisis**, characterised by rapid and ecosystem loss, high extinction rate, enough to be considered a mass extinction.
- There are many approaches to conservation, including *in situ* and *ex situ* methods.
- The **EDGE** programme of ZSL helps to prioritise conservation efforts.



**Species diversity** includes both **species richness** and **species evenness**. It can be measured through a biodiversity index such as the **Simpson's Index** or **Shannon Index**.

**Species richness** is simply the number of different species in the area of interest.

*It is clear that the species richness in the garden on the left is lower than the garden on the right, which has a greater number of plant species.*

**Species evenness** describes the distribution of individuals among different species. If the population sizes of different species within a taxonomic group (e.g. amphibians), or ecological guild (e.g. deer) are roughly equal, this is a sign that the ecosystem is well balanced and should likely be more **resilient**. If, however, one species is dominating the ecosystem with much higher numbers, this is a sign of **low evenness**.

*The garden on the right is dominated by a particular grass species due to*

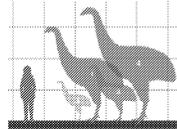


### North Island Giant Moa

The image on the right shows the approximate size of the North Island Giant Moa (*Dinornis novaeseelandiae* - 3) in comparison to a human, and three other moa species including the South Island Giant Moa (*Dinornis robustus* - 4).

Native to the North Island of New Zealand, and unable to disperse naturally due to its flightless nature, these large birds disappeared over the course of about 200–300 years, following the arrival of humans on the island. Causes of extinction included:

- Hunting by Maori people
- Predation of chicks by the Polynesian dogs (introduced by the human settlers)
- Destruction of eggs by both the Polynesian dogs and Polynesian rats (also accidentally introduced by human settlers)



### The Biodiversity Crisis

Various human activities have led to rapid population growth of species. Rapid increase in human population alone has led to:

- **Overharvesting** (including overhunting)
- **Habitat destruction** (most notably **deforestation** (through land-use change including for agriculture) and unsustainable use of natural resources including water for irrigation)
- Introduction of **invasive species** – which displace native species becoming **out-competed**
- **Pollution** (includes **eutrophication** from fertiliser runoff and smelting works; note that this can also lead to ocean acidification)
- Rapid climate change (which is occurring so fast that it is now considered a **mass extinction event**)

The **background extinction rate** is thought to be very low. Meanwhile, current rates of extinction are estimated to be 100–1000 times higher. Such a high rate has led many scientists to refer to the current period as a **biodiversity crisis**, and evidence that we are now experiencing the **sixth mass extinction**.

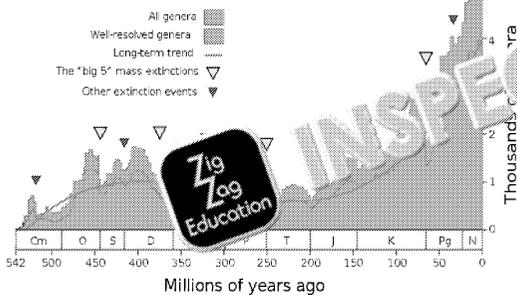
- Evidence:**
- IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) was established in 2012 by 94 countries – aims to support decision-making regarding conservation and biodiversity
  - **Citizen science** – data collection carried out by volunteers. **Birdwatch** which has helped to track changes in the population of Britain's birds
  - Such programmes are essential given the scale of the crisis. They allow for greater amounts of data to be collected. Participants are required to follow a set protocol, which allow the data to be combined reliably.

### Diversity Over Geological Time

**Biodiversity** has a tendency to increase over time, as can be seen in this graph of the richness of genera since the Cambrian explosion.

**Mass extinctions** can be caused by rapid and significant changes in the abiotic conditions and weather patterns of Earth, leading to sudden **biodiversity loss**. This has happened **five times** in Earth's history.

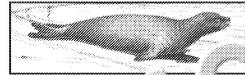
### Biodiversity during the Phanerozoic



Mass extinctions are followed by periods of rapid **diversification** and the generation of new species (**speciation**), as survivors adapt and evolve to fill vacant **ecological niches**.

### Caribbean Monk Seal

Officially declared extinct: 2008  
 Last confirmed sighting: 1952



- Reasons for extinction:
- Hunting for oil and ivory
  - Exploited by their own people and lack of protection
  - Inability to flee from humans
  - Overfishing of the reefs in which the seals hunted, causing many seals to die of starvation

### Conservation

**In Situ Conservation**  
 Conservation methods which occur within the natural habitat.

- **Protected areas** (National parks, Nature reserves)
- Tracking and monitoring
- Reintroductions (including **rewilding**)
- Ecosystem restoration (**reclamation** of destroyed or degraded ecosystems)

### Ex Situ Conservation

- Conservation methods which happen outside the natural habitat.
- **Captive breeding programmes** – Such as black-footed ferret and Arabian oryx
  - **Gene or seed banks**
  - Research
    - Behavioural research can help with efforts making them more likely to survive
    - Genetic and reproductive research programmes and to identify the most suitable individuals

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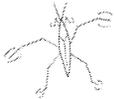


## Water

- Due to its unique properties, water is the medium for life.
- The polar covalent bonds within water molecules lead to hydrogen bonds between water molecules, and between water molecules and other substances leading to many of water's unique properties.
- Earth's water has an extraplanetary origin.
- The **'Goldilocks zone'** represents the region of a solar system which could contain planets with **liquid water**, and refers to the **habitable zone** around a star.

## 2. Cohesion and Adhesion

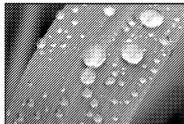
a) i. Define the terms cohesion and adhesion in the context of water.



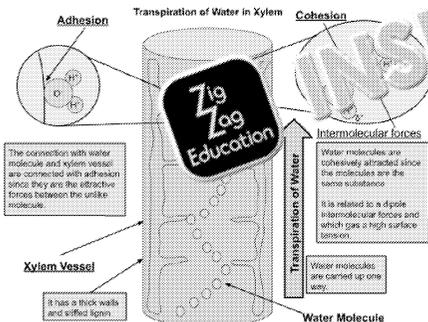
ii. What is the link between cohesion and surface tension?

iii. Why is this important for aquatic life such as the water strider?

b) Define the term adhesion in the context of water.

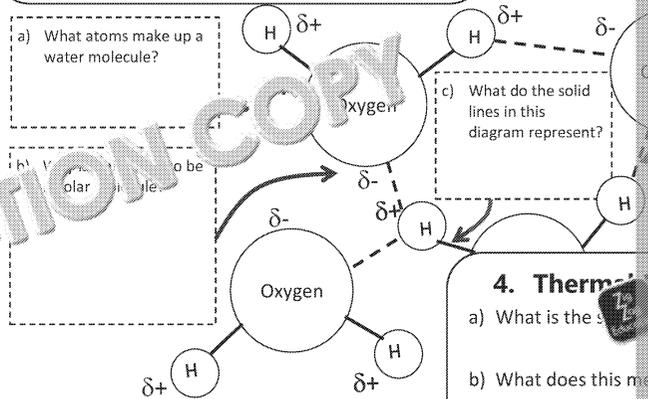


c) Describe how these properties support the transport of water up a plant stem. Use the diagram to help you.



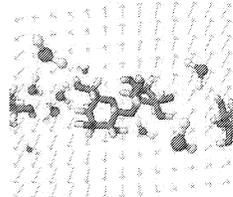
## A1.1: Water

### 1. Molecular Structure of Water



### 3. Water as the Universal Solvent

a) Which characteristic of water makes it an excellent solvent?



Solution of sucrose in water

b) What happens to ionic molecules such as salts when placed in water?

c) What happens to small organic molecules such as sugar when placed in water?

d) Why is this chemical property of water so important in the context of living things? (List as many reasons as you can)

e) What is the name given to molecules which  
i. dissolve easily in water?  
ii. do not dissolve in water?

f) Identify whether or not the following substances can dissolve in water:

	Can dissolve	Cannot dissolve
Triglyceride		
Testosterone		
Fructose		

### 4. Thermal Properties

a) What is the specific heat capacity of water?

b) What does this mean?

c) How does this property of water affect living things in general?

d) What are the consequences of water's high thermal conductivity for life in air?

### 5. Buoyancy

a) What causes buoyancy?

b) Why is this important for life?

a) Define the term cohesion.

b) Define the term hydrogen bond.

c) Identify two key properties of water.

d) Identify two adaptations of water.

### 7. Applications

a) Identify adaptations of water:

- buoyancy
- viscosity
- high thermal conductivity of water

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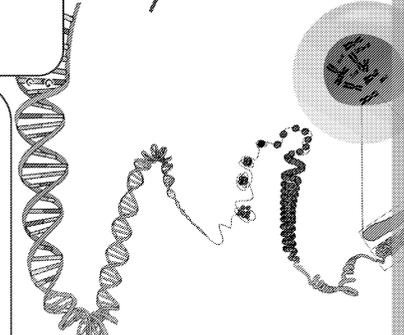
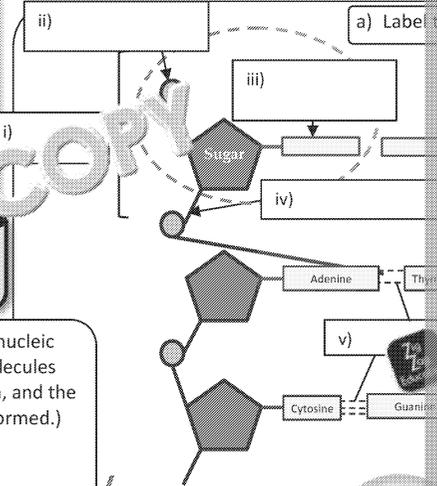
THE BASICS

DNA and RNA

- DNA is the **genetic material** in all organisms, while the **genetic code** is shared by all known life. This universality is evidence for the shared ancestry of all life on Earth.
- A **nucleotide** consists of a sugar (**deoxyribose** or **ribose**), a **phosphate** group, and a **nitrogenous base** (**adenine, guanine, cytosine, thymine** (DNA only), or **uracil** (RNA only)).
- The bases form a code, while **complementary base pairing** ensures accurate transfer of this code.
- The possible diversity in the sequence of bases is effectively infinite.

- Bonding between **purines** and **pyrimidines** helps to ensure genetic stability.
- The work of multiple scientists, including Hershey, Chase and Chargaff, has provided evidence which allows us to understand the structure and processes involving DNA.

A1.2: Nucleic Acids



1. RNA Structure

Complete the table below highlighting the differences between RNA and DNA

Ribonucleic acid (RNA)	Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)
	Adenine, guanine, cytosine and thymine
Short, single chain	
	Long-lived stable molecule
	Stores genetic information
Three kinds (____, ____ and ____). ____ is a structural component of ribosomes.	Can exist in association with ____ proteins to form ____ and form chromosomes

2. How does polymerisation of nucleic acids occur? (Identify the molecules involved, the type of reaction, and the name of the resulting bond formed.)

3. DNA has four different bases

a) How many possible sequences of these bases exist?

b) What is the length of a DNA molecule?

c) How is the number of possible sequences for a DNA molecule of a given length mathematically calculated?

4. ATP

Through hydrolysis, **adenosine triphosphate (ATP)** provides an **immediate** source of energy for cells.

- a) How is adenosine triphosphate similar to an RNA nucleotide?
- b) How is ATP different from an RNA nucleotide?

HL

Whether in DNA replication

i) \_\_\_\_\_ direction

ii) \_\_\_\_\_

Scientist	Used
Hershey and Chase	Used radioisotopes
Chargaff	Used paper chromatography

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## Eukaryotic and Prokaryotic Cells

- All life exists as **single** or **multicellular organisms**, and all cells have certain features in common.
- New cells arise from pre-existing cells.
- Viruses** are non-cellular and therefore non-living.
- Cells have **specialised organelles**, a large quantity of a particular organelle, or **specialised structures** to adapt them to **different roles**.
- Cells can be studied with **optical** or **electron microscopes**.
- Advances in microscope technologies have led to new discoveries.
- Unicellular** organisms have unique methods and structures for carrying out the **functions of life**.

### 1. Microscopy

a-f) Identify the key terms to match the descriptions below.

a) \_\_\_\_\_ uses light to produce images, but has a **low magnification** and **low resolution** compared to electron microscopes.

b) \_\_\_\_\_ uses \_\_\_\_\_ for greater magnification, but use a dead sample in a vacuum and therefore cannot be used to view movement of processes.

A i) \_\_\_\_\_ (SEM) provides 3D images of an object's surface, while ii) \_\_\_\_\_ (TEM) generates an internal cross section.

c) The \_\_\_\_\_ technique uses -190 °C liquefied propane to rapidly freeze a sample. It is then cut, etched (by evaporating a small amount of water from the surface), and coated (with a thin layer of metal).

**Fluorescent stains and immunofluorescence** allow us to see the location of specific molecules in a sample.

d) \_\_\_\_\_ have been used for many years, but not all substances can absorb these stains. e) \_\_\_\_\_ is an advanced form of this technique using antibodies tagged with a fluorescent dye to identify the presence and location of specific proteins in a sample.

f) \_\_\_\_\_ is an advanced method of TEM which allows for 3D imaging of molecular structures.

g) Complete the equations.

#### Magnification

$$\text{Magnification} = (\text{eyepiece lens}) \times (\text{objective lens})$$

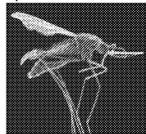
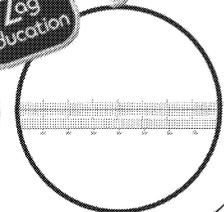
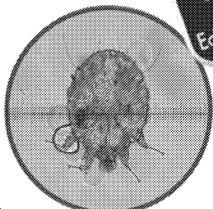


Actual size = \_\_\_\_\_

#### Calculating Magnification Using the Eyepiece Graticule and Stage Micrometer

eyepiece graticule unit = \_\_\_\_\_

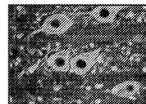
actual size = no. of graticule units × \_\_\_\_\_ 1 unit



SEM micrograph of a mosquito



TEM micrograph of a eukaryotic cell



Spinal cord grey matter under immunofluorescence

## A2.2: Cell Structure

Found on the outside surface of the cell, the

a) \_\_\_\_\_ includes many proteins, and controls movement of substances into and out of the cell. Other membranes are found surrounding the organelles, such as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ mitochondria and \_\_\_\_\_.

b) \_\_\_\_\_ are fluid-filled sacs, used in \_\_\_\_\_ for digestion.

c) In a plant cell, the \_\_\_\_\_ contains salts and sugars and helps to maintain turgidity.

d) \_\_\_\_\_ carry out protein synthesis

e) Surrounded by a double membrane with pores known as the **nuclear membrane** or **nuclear envelope**, the \_\_\_\_\_ contains the **chromosomes**, and a f) \_\_\_\_\_

g) Cells show variation regarding the \_\_\_\_\_: Animal cells (as shown) do not have cell walls. Plants cells have rigid walls with **cellulose** polymers that provide protection and support. Fungal cells have cell walls made of chitin.

o) Identify the different types of eukaryotic cell shown in each box below.

i) \_\_\_\_\_

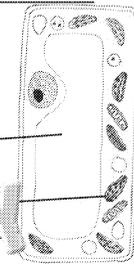
They also sometimes have:  
**Cilia** – these hair-like structures help to move mucus or other liquids past the cell  
**Flagella** – used for locomotion in sperm cells

ii) \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to the organelles shown in the animal cell, they have:  
- a **large permanent vacuole**  
- **chloroplasts**

iii) \_\_\_\_\_

They do not have:  
- a **large permanent vacuole**  
- **chloroplasts**  
They do have:  
- a **cell wall** (made of **chitin**)



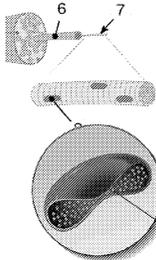
### Prokaryotic Cells

1) Which of the following cells do not align with the characteristics of prokaryotic cells?  
a) Bacteria  
b) Yeast  
c) Paramecium  
d) Fungi  
e) Reptate fungal hyphae

b) Skeletal muscle fibres

c) Red blood cells

d) Phloem sieve tube elements



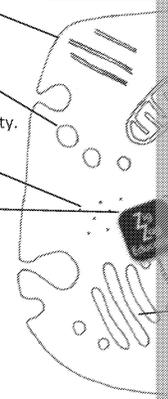
The processes of homeostasis, metabolism, and growth are used to identify organisms as living. Identify the type of cell shown in each box below.

a) Paramecium

Paramecium are single-celled 'animal-like' organisms that are heterotrophic. Unique features include:  
• Cytosome (for i) \_\_\_\_\_)  
• Cilia (for ii) \_\_\_\_\_)  
• Enzyme-containing vacuoles (iii) \_\_\_\_\_)  
• Anal pore (iv) \_\_\_\_\_)  
• v) \_\_\_\_\_ occurs via fission, with the process supported by horizontal gene transfer.

### 2. Eukaryotic Cells

Identify each structure shown in the diagram from the labels in the box below and/or describe its function.



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# A2.1: Origins of Cells & A2.2: Cell Structure

## - additional higher level only

### THE BASICS

### How could life begin?

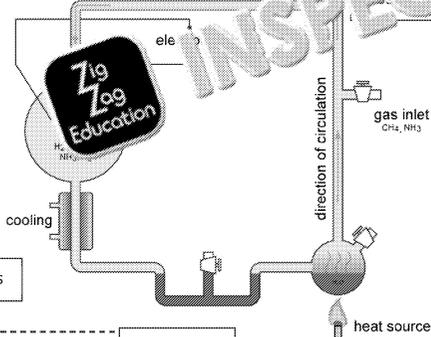
- The early **atmosphere** was very different from what it is like today.
- The first **cells** represent the first life.
- There is evidence supporting the **spontaneous generation** of various cell components: including carbon compounds (Miller-Urey experiment), RNA, and vesicles.

### 1. The Miller-Urey Experiment

Identify the missing words using the clues provided.

#### a) Replicating the early atmosphere.

A mixture of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ was placed in a 5L flask in the ratio 2:2:1, while \_\_\_\_\_ was evaporated from a smaller flask.



#### d) The evidence.

The water collecting gradually changed from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_, and became \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ increasingly.

Chromatography of the mixture proved the presence of 3-5 amino acids.

#### b) Provision of energy for reactions to occur.

An \_\_\_\_\_ spark was continuously discharged from two electrodes to simulate the frequent \_\_\_\_\_ expected to occur in conditions on the early Earth.

#### c) Collecting the molecules.

The apparatus was cooled so that water vapour \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in a u-shaped tube at the bottom of the apparatus.

e) Recent repeats of this experiment have yielded many more \_\_\_\_\_, probably due to more advanced detection methods.

### 2. Conditions on Earth

Identify the missing words to fill in the gaps in the passage below. Earth formed approximately \_\_\_\_\_ years ago. Gases would first appear \_\_\_\_\_ (and have been very c) \_\_\_\_\_ from water.

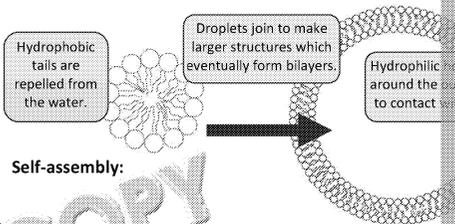
- \_\_\_\_\_ (leading to high levels of f) \_\_\_\_\_
- g) \_\_\_\_\_ levels of CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> (leading to high h) \_\_\_\_\_
- Ocean chemistry is also likely to have been quite different, varying significantly from as low as j) \_\_\_\_\_ 5 to as high as k) \_\_\_\_\_.
- Such conditions may have allowed a variety of carbon compounds to be formed, but would not be possible today.
- High levels of UV could have provided the l) \_\_\_\_\_ to occur spontaneously today.
- m) \_\_\_\_\_ lightning could also have been a source of energy.
- **Pre-biotic carbon compounds** could have formed in a variety of ways: n) \_\_\_\_\_ droplets, o) \_\_\_\_\_ vents, and p) \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3. Vesicle Formation

Explain the link between these keywords and vesicles in the context of the origins of life.

#### Compartmentalisation:

#### Amphipathic:



#### Self-assembly:

### 4. The First RNA

While RNA is less stable than DNA, its single-stranded structure makes its role more flexible.

Identify the important roles which RNA could have played in life processes:

a) Providing control over replication and protein synthesis is essential to the first life.

Some RNA enzymes (ribozymes) have been found in modern cells.

b) An essential precursor to life and the means to inheritance and replication of successful variants RNA and ribozymes are capable of: S \_\_\_\_\_

### THE BASICS

### Last Universal Common Ancestor (LUCA)

- The **universal genetic code** and other characteristics for all known organisms provide strong evidence for the existence of a **LUCA**.
- The **LUCA** is estimated to have existed around 3.4-4.5 bya.
- Evidence suggests that LUCA was evolving around **hydrothermal vents**.

The cellular processes that are carried out in all cells are supported by d) \_\_\_\_\_ or sections of e) \_\_\_\_\_ which remain very similar in all extant f) \_\_\_\_\_, from bacteria to humans. This further supports the idea of a g) \_\_\_\_\_ **common ancestor**.

Rocks dating to around 3.0-3.5 bya) \_\_\_\_\_ have been shown to contain i) \_\_\_\_\_-like structures. Isotopic analysis of these 'fossils' also suggests they formed from once living material. Meanwhile j) \_\_\_\_\_ (rock formations formed by colonies of k) \_\_\_\_\_) have been dated to 3.4 bya. It is important to note that other early life may have pre-existed LUCA, but was later outcompeted by LUCA. Estimates for when LUCA existed range from 3.4 to l) \_\_\_\_\_ bya.

Due to their presence in modern-day bacteria and m) \_\_\_\_\_ it is thought that LUCA possessed genes for n) \_\_\_\_\_ metabolism and nitrogen fixation. This suggests that LUCA could have evolved around hydrothermal o) \_\_\_\_\_ which have high concentrations of hydrogen, and iron p) \_\_\_\_\_.

### 5. LUCA

Identify the missing words to fill in the gaps in the passage.

The **universality** of the a) \_\_\_\_\_ b) \_\_\_\_\_ supports the theory that all life on Earth is descended from a single common c) \_\_\_\_\_ species (**LUCA**).

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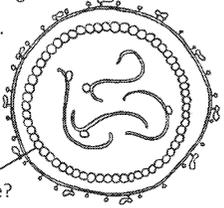
THE BASICS

Viruses

- All life exists as single or multicellular organisms, and all cells have certain features in common.
- Viruses are non-cellular and therefore non-living.
- Viruses cannot perform many of the functions of life and must use host cells to replicate.
- Viruses can usually only be studied with electron microscopes due to their size.
- Viruses replicate through means of the lytic and lysogenic cycles.
- Viral genomes are very small and highly diverse.
- Some viruses evolve rapidly causing challenges for effective vaccination and treatment.

Viruses are extremely small and do not have certain features: Viruses have a fixed size and do not grow. Different types show variation in size.

- What range of size is possible?
- How are viral nucleic acids protected?
- What is the name of this structure?
- What are the four possible forms of viral nucleic acid?
- What is the smallest number of genes possible for a virus?
- Why do many viruses not have any enzymes?
- When present, what is the function of viral enzymes?
- Where are viral attachment proteins found?



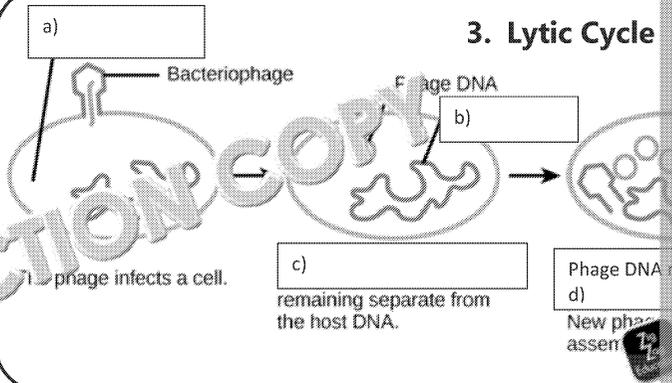
2. Origins of Viruses

The exact origin of viruses is unknown.

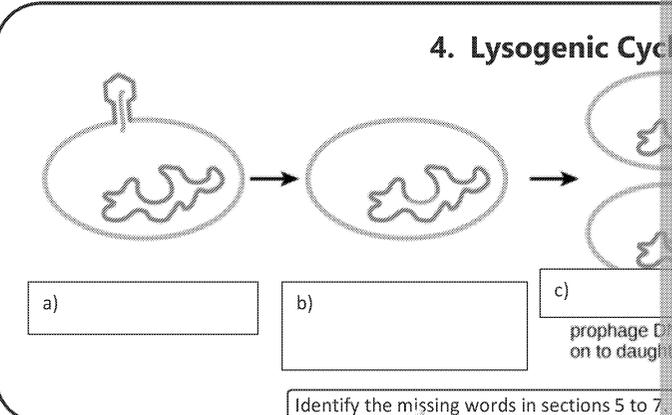
- What conclusion has been drawn from the apparent simplicity of viruses?
  - What conclusion has been drawn from the great variation shown among viruses regarding differences in their genetic material?
  - Collectively, what are the Virus-first hypothesis, Escaped genes hypothesis and Regressive hypothesis?
- All viruses share an extreme form of obligate parasitism.
- What does this suggest about their evolutionary relationships?

HL A2.3: Viruses (additional higher level)

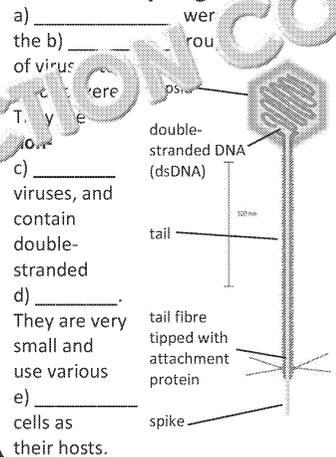
3. Lytic Cycle



4. Lysogenic Cycle



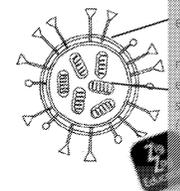
5. Bacteriophage Lambda



6. Coronavirus

Coronaviruses are a large a) \_\_\_\_\_ viruses, many of which are well known including the common b) \_\_\_\_\_ flu, and the virus which caused the COVID-19 c) \_\_\_\_\_.

Coronaviruses are **enveloped** d) \_\_\_\_\_ (ssRNA) viruses which infect e) \_\_\_\_\_ f) \_\_\_\_\_ due to the use of RNA replicating their genetic material. This 'g) \_\_\_\_\_' like DNA polymerase, which easily occurs due to the virus containing multiple RNA molecules, flu and swine flu, as well as SARS and



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## Diversity of Organisms

- There is great variation both within and between species.
- Genetic similarity between organisms indicates relatedness.
- The binomial naming of organisms includes both the genus and species name, and provides a standard which can be understood by scientists globally.
- Members of the same species are able to breed and produce healthy fertile offspring.
- Chromosome numbers and karyotypes are a key identifying feature of species.
- Genome sequencing has advanced dramatically in recent decades, having multiple present and future uses.

- Asexual reproduction and horizontal gene transfer (in bacteria) generate issues for the traditional taxonomic concept.
- Dichotomous keys are a structure to support the identification of a given area or taxonomic group.
- Environmental DNA and DNA barcodes can be used to identify the presence of a species in a sample area.

HL

## 2. Naming Organisms



- a) Complete the annotations stating what this part of the name represents and describing the scientific convention for writing it.

*Hemidactylus frenatus*

i)

Species in the same genus share many features in common. There are over 190 described species in this genus.

ii)

Organisms within a species share other features in common which are not shared by other members of the genus.

Both the genus name and species name should be typed in \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_ if handwritten.

## 5. Difficulties Applying the Biological Species Concept

- a) Describe one situation where there is difficulty in applying the biological species concept.
- b) Why are hybrids between closely related species often infertile?

HL

# A3.1 Diversity of Organisms

## 1. Variation

- a) Explain why even genetically identical organisms (e.g. asexually reproducing) can show variation.
- b) Identify two specific causes of variation in human monozygotic twins.
- c) Define the term 'phenotypic plasticity'.
- d) Describe the role of gene expression in sexual dimorphism.
- e) Images g and f show two individuals of one monkey beetle species. Images g and h show a different species. What types of variation are shown?

## 3. Environmental DNA, and genetic barcoding

- a) Define the term DNA barcode.
- b) Identify two environmental components from which DNA can be extracted.
1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- c) What information can be determined from such environmental DNA samples?

Each species has a unique chromosome number.

a) What does the chromosome number tell us about a species and the other information that can be determined from human evolution?

## 4. Biological Species Concept

The biological species concept is used to determine whether two populations belong to the same species. To be members of the same species, individuals from different populations must interbreed successfully.

- a) What determines reproduction to be 'successful'?
- b) What would 'unsuccessful reproduction' look like?

b) When looking for differences between species, what are the three things to look for?

## 7. Genomes

- The a) \_\_\_\_\_ is the entire genetic sequence of an organism.
- Genome b) \_\_\_\_\_ began with certain bacteria.
- The c) \_\_\_\_\_ genome project then d) \_\_\_\_\_ concluded in 2003, but mapping of the human genome was not complete until 2005.
- Many f) \_\_\_\_\_ of individual human genomes (more than 100 g) \_\_\_\_\_ single h) \_\_\_\_\_ polymorphisms that are known to differ in more than 1% of the bases in the DNA sequence can also occur, usually resulting in different phenotypes.
- Geneticists have now sequenced the genomes of many organisms, which mean that it is now much quicker, and much more accurate, and now costs less than \$1000 for each n) \_\_\_\_\_ genome.
- By understanding the genome, diseases with genetic origins may lead to p) \_\_\_\_\_ medicine.
- Sequencing of other organisms has greatly improved our understanding of evolution.

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# A3.2: Classification and Cladistics (additional higher level)

THE BASICS

## Classification and Cladistics

- Classification facilitates a variety of biological studies, allowing predictions to be made based on the **relatedness** of organisms.
- It is often difficult to fit organisms into the traditional taxonomic hierarchy, with **unranked 'clades'** now being used in most taxonomic studies.
- Traditionally classification was based on **morphology**.
- DNA technology** has led to advances and changes in taxonomic understanding, as it provides direct evidence of mutations.
- The gradual accumulation of mutations can be used as a **'molecular clock'** to determine when different clades diverged from one another.
- The node of a cladogram represents the **common ancestor** of all organisms within the consequent clade.
- The highest level of classification consists of three domains of life, classified according to rRNA gene sequences (bacteria, archaea, and eukaryota).

## 2. Molecular Clock

Examining the number of differences between the base sequences of two related organisms allows us to estimate how long ago they are likely to have shared a common ancestor.

Explain the principle behind this calculation.

## 3. Applying Classification

Traditional classification is based on a) \_\_\_\_\_, but this can be misleading due to b) \_\_\_\_\_ evolution.

The rock hyrax looks a lot like a c) \_\_\_\_\_, and even behaves very much like a ground squirrel. Its feet and teeth make it clear that it does not belong in this d) \_\_\_\_\_ group, even in traditional methodology. However, it was quite an enigma until DNA evidence revealed it to be a e) \_\_\_\_\_ of elephants.

The Chiroptera (bats) are one group of f) \_\_\_\_\_ which have been difficult to place under traditional morphological methods, with various theories as to their g) \_\_\_\_\_ origins. The significant h) \_\_\_\_\_ between the smaller insect-eating bats (traditionally classified under the suborder Microchiroptera) and the fruit-eating bats (traditionally classified under the suborder Megachiroptera) led to their classification as h) \_\_\_\_\_ among the order \_\_\_\_\_, a new order including primates, tree shrews and colugos. At the time of i) \_\_\_\_\_, a new order was proposed that included bats, primates, tree shrews and colugos. At the time of j) \_\_\_\_\_, the order was proposed that included bats, primates, tree shrews and colugos. At the time of k) \_\_\_\_\_, the order was proposed that included bats, primates, tree shrews and colugos.

DNA j) \_\_\_\_\_ has led to both the Insectivora and Archonta being abandoned as non-**monophyletic** groupings. Chiroptera are now placed in the Laurasiatheria with even-toed ungulates, carnivores, and pangolins. The Chiroptera itself has also been split differently, based on DNA evidence, with the unranked k) \_\_\_\_\_ Rhinolochoidea placed within the unranked clade Yinpterochiroptera.

Identify the missing words to complete the passage below.



Rock hyrax (*Procavia capensis*)

## 1. Phylogenetic Classification and Taxonomy

Analysing **phylogenetic relationships** allows life to be classified into a **taxonomy**.

a) Identify the taxonomic ranks which each of these classification groups represents:

Eukarya — Animalia — Mammalia — Artiodactyla — Cervidae

b) Identify the taxonomic rank of the red deer according to scientific naming convention.

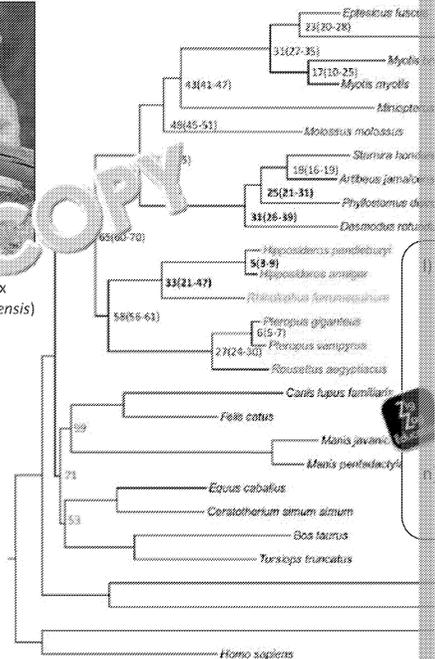
Species can look very similar; for example, an okapi looks like a cross between a horse and a zebra, but is actually the closest relative of giraffes. Due to this **inaccuracy** modern classification is not based on morphology.

c) What is used in modern classification to determine more accurate evolutionary relationships?

There are **three domains** in the highest taxonomic rank:

d) Identify the correct headings for the table:

Single-celled prokaryotes	Single-celled prokaryotes	Single-celled eukaryotes
Small 70s ribosomes	Small 70s ribosomes	Large 80s ribosomes
Murein cell walls	Non-murein cell walls	Cellulose cell walls



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### Evolution and Speciation

- Evolution is a gradual change in the inherited characteristics of a population.
- **Phenotypic variation**, DNA and RNA sequences, and amino acid sequences in specific proteins all provide evidence for evolution.
- Easily observable evidence for evolution includes **selective breeding** (aka artificial selection) and **homologous structures**, while **analogous structures** provide evidence for **convergent** evolution.
- **Speciation** is the generation of new species often occurring through **differential selection** and supported by **reproductive isolation**.
- There are two major forms of speciation, **allopatric** and **sympatric**, which have both similarities and differences.
- **Adaptive radiation** occurs to fill vacant niches in a new or heavily degraded ecosystem, and leads to an increase in species.
- Pre-zygotic and post-zygotic **reproductive isolation** prevent the mixing of alleles between species.
- **Hybridisation** and **polyploidy** in plants can also disrupt speciation.



### 1. Inherited and Acquired Traits

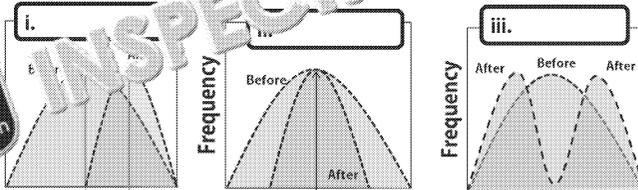
- Traits which are used in an evolutionary line are known as derived traits.
- There are different theories which have been used in the past to explain inheritance of traits. Two theories of note are:
  - **Lamarckism**: John Baptiste Lamarck (1744–1829) theorised that traits **acquired** during a lifetime would be passed to the next generation.
    - a) Give an example of an acquired trait.
  - **Darwinism**: originating from Charles Darwin's (1809–1882) theory of evolution, **Darwinism** states that individuals who possess beneficial traits are more likely to pass these traits to the next generation.
    - b) What process creates new traits?
    - c) How are such traits passed to the next generation?

Identify the missing words to complete the passages below.

### 2. Natural Selection

- There is significant variation in every a) \_\_\_\_\_; a lot of which is heritable (i.e. caused by genetics, not the b) \_\_\_\_\_).
- Specific variants offer benefit to some individuals, e.g. they might be bigger, stronger, or more attractive to a mate.
- The c) \_\_\_\_\_ ability of individuals in a single population to survive and d) \_\_\_\_\_ is termed **differential reproduction**.
- If an allele offers an organism an e) \_\_\_\_\_, it is therefore more likely to be **inherited** (passed on to the next generation). There are also likely to be more individuals in the next generation which carry this allele. This leads to an increase in the allele f) \_\_\_\_\_. The process that leads to this change in allele frequency is called **natural selection**.
- The direction in which this change in allele frequency occurs is known as a **selective pressure** and is determined by the environment in which the population lives. The same trait may be advantageous in one environment but undesirable in another.
- Selection pressures may be directional, stabilising or disruptive.

h) Identify the three selection types shown by the graphs.



### 3. Selective breeding

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ isn't always a natural process. Humans often b) \_\_\_\_\_ breeding between organisms to produce new breeds for a particular c) \_\_\_\_\_. This is sometimes called **artificial selection**. Wolves were d) \_\_\_\_\_ to form domestic dogs, which have now been selectively bred to form over 100 distinct e) \_\_\_\_\_, such as the Border collie (for sheep herding), the St. Bernard (for mountain rescue), and terriers (for catching rodents). The f) \_\_\_\_\_ mustard was g) \_\_\_\_\_ bred to form all cruciferous vegetables including the cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussel sprouts and kohlrabi.



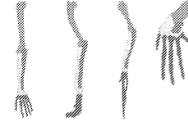
## A4.1: Evolution and Speciation

### 5. Evidence for Evolution Comparing sequences

a) What types of molecules can be sequenced to provide evidence for evolutionary relationships?

### Homologous Structures

b) Define the term homologous structure.



c) How does this concept link with the concept of divergent evolution?

d) What skeletal structure is shown by the diagram?

e) What functions has this structure been modified to perform (hint: in the diagram)?

### Analogous Structures

f) Define the term analogous structure.

g) How does this concept link with the concept of convergent evolution? You may support your answer with an example.

a) Define the term \_\_\_\_\_

b) Identify two situations \_\_\_\_\_

a) Define the term \_\_\_\_\_

b) Explain how poly \_\_\_\_\_

4. Define the term **gene pool**.

### 9. Speciation

mate  
hybr  
spec  
hybr  
hybr  
beh  
tem

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# A4.2: Conservation of Biodiversity

## Conservation of Biodiversity

- **Biodiversity** is the variation which exists among living things. It includes genetic, species, and ecosystem level components.
- Biodiversity has an overall upward trend over time.
- **Mass extinction** events have caused dramatic and sudden drops in diversity, followed by periods of diversification.
- Human activities are causing a **biodiversity crisis**, characterised by rapid and ecosystem loss, high extinction rate, enough to be considered a mass extinction.
- There are many approaches to conservation, including *in situ* and *ex situ* methods.
- The **EDGE** programme of ZSL helps to prioritise conservation efforts.



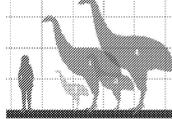
### 2. Species diversity

- Define:
  - species richness
  - species evenness
  - biodiversity index
- Describe the difference between the two gardens:



### 5. North Island Giant Moa

Native to the North Island of New Zealand, and unable to disperse naturally due to its flightless nature, these large birds disappeared over the course of about 200–300 years, following the arrival of humans on the island.



List the three main causes of their extinction:

### 7. The Biodiversity Crisis

Various human activities have led to rapid population growth and long-term unsustainable practices.

- Identify the five core reasons for the biodiversity crisis.
- - 
  - 
  - 
  -

The **background extinction rate** is thought to be 1–2 species per million species per year.

This extremely high rate of biodiversity loss is what we call the **biodiversity crisis**.

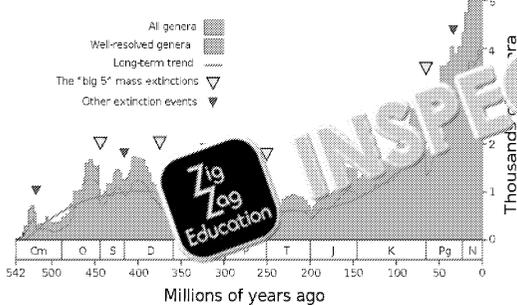
- What is the current rate of extinction?
- What is the current rate of extinction in current time what name in ecological context?
- What is IPBES?
- What is the role of IPBES in the biodiversity crisis?
- What is citizen science?
- Give an example of citizen science.
- What are the key features of citizen science?

### 1. Diversity Over Geological Time

- Using the graph below, what is the general trend seen in biodiversity over time?

**Mass extinctions** can be caused by rapid and significant changes in the abiotic conditions and weather patterns of Earth, leading to sudden **biodiversity loss**. This has happened **five times** in Earth's history.

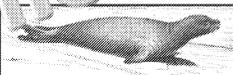
Biodiversity during the Phanerozoic



- What appears to happen following a major or mass extinction?
- Why does this happen?

### 6. Caribbean Monk Seal

- When was the Caribbean monk seal officially declared extinct?
- When was the last confirmed sighting of the Caribbean monk seal?
- List the two main causes of their extinction.



### 10. Conservation

- Define the term *in situ* conservation.
- Define the term *ex situ* conservation.

One well-known example of *in situ* conservation is protected areas, including:

- **National parks**
- **Nature reserves**

- List other methods of *in situ* conservation that you can think of:

This includes **captive breeding programmes** to save the black-footed cat.

- Describe the role of **gene** and **seed banks**.
- Describe the role of research in *ex situ* conservation.

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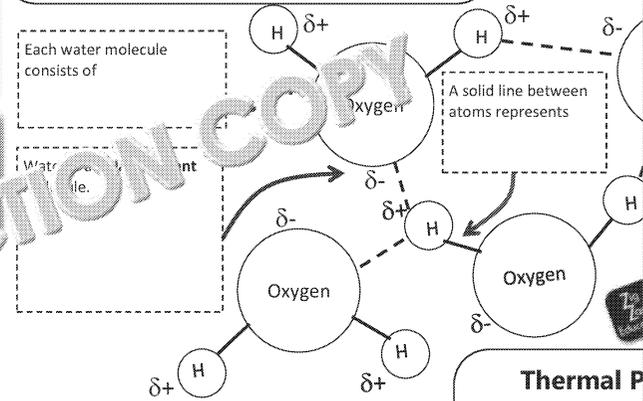


# Water

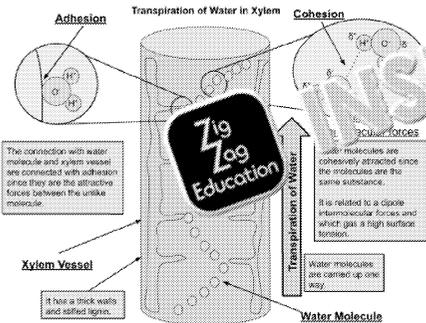
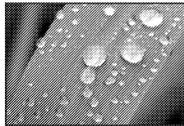
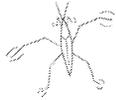
- Earth's water has an extraplanetary origin.
- The 'Goldilocks zone'...

## A1.1: Water

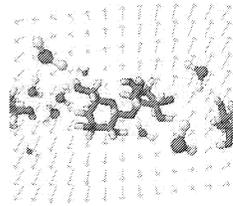
### Molecular Structure of Water



### Cohesion and Adhesion



### Water as the Universal Solvent



Solution of sucrose in water

### Thermal Properties

### Buoyancy

**Application:** C...  
Black-throated loon

### Application

#### Emulsion Test

Why does the emulsion test for lipids work?  
What is happening which causes the mixture to turn cloudy?

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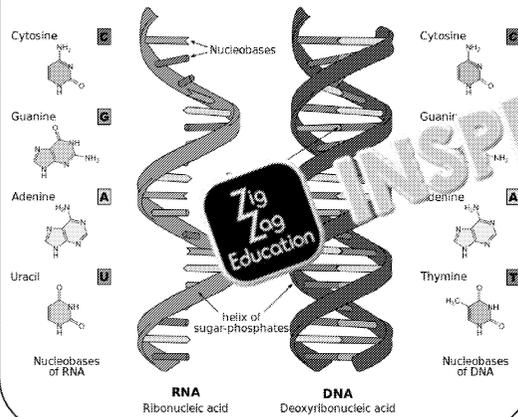
THE BASICS

DNA and RNA

A1.2: Nucleic Acids

- Bonding between...
- The work of multiple scientists...

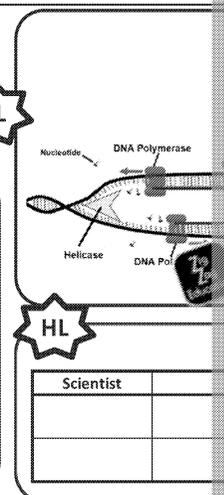
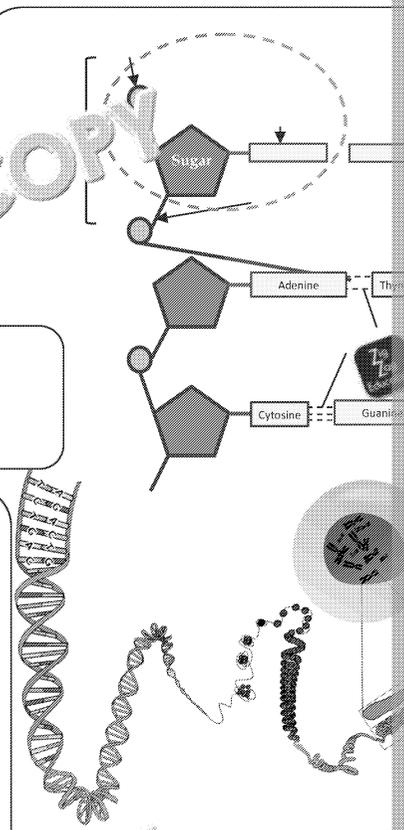
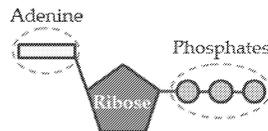
RNA vs. DNA Structure



Polymerisation

DNA consists of a sequence of four bases...

ATP



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### Eukaryotic and Prokaryotic Cells

## A2.2: Cell Structure

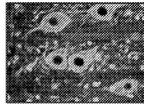
### Microscopy



SEM micrograph of a mosquito



TEM micrograph of a eukaryotic cell



Spinal cord grey matter under immunofluorescence

### Magnification

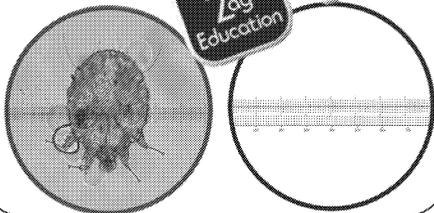
Magnification =  
Actual size =



### Calculating Magnification Using the Eyepiece Graticule and Stage Micrometer

eyepiece graticule unit =

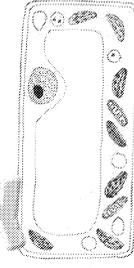
actual size =



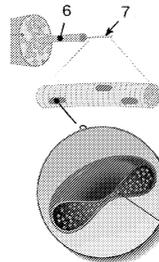
### Animal Cells

### Plant Cells

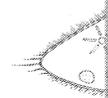
### Fungi



### Animal Cells



### Paramecium



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HL

# A2.1: Origins of Cells & A2.2: Cell Structure

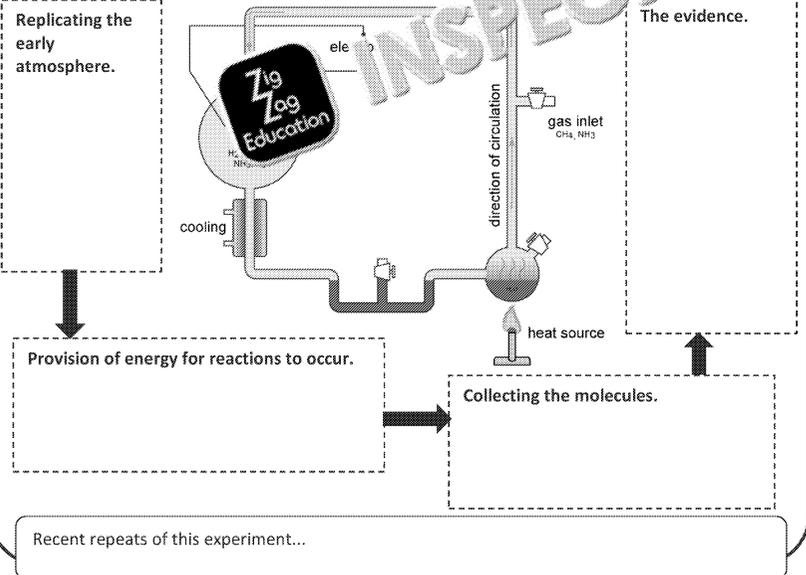
- additional higher level only

THE BASICS

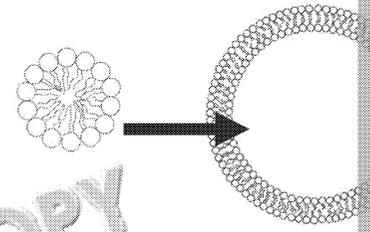
### How could life begin?

Conditions on Earth

### The Miller-Urey Experiment



### Vesicle Formation



THE BASICS

### Last Universal Common Ancestor

LU

### The First RNA

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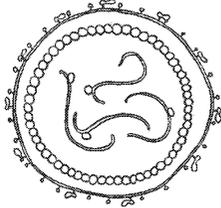
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# A2.3: Viruses (additional higher level)

## Viruses



## Origins of Viruses



Host bacterial cell  
Bacteriophage

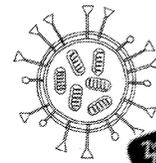
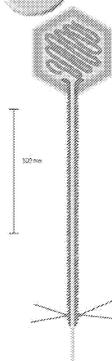
## Lytic Cycle

Phage DNA  
Host DNA

## Lysogenic Cycle

Bacteriophage Lambda

Coronaviruses



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### Diversity of Organisms

## A3.1 Diversity of Organisms

Variation

- Asexual reproduction...
- Dichotomous key
- Environmental DNA



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### Environmental DNA, and genetic barcoding



### Naming Organisms

### Biological Species Concept

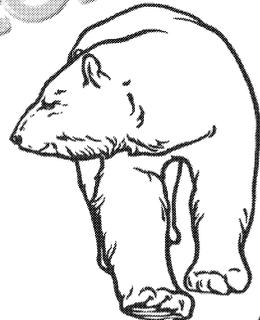
### Difficulties Applying the Biological Species Concept



Crosses between species...

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### Application: *Ursus maritimus*: Species or Subspecies?



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Classification and Cladistics



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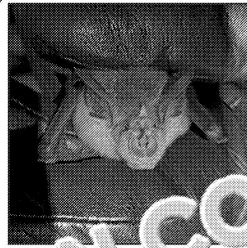
Phylogenetic Classification and Taxonomy

The Molecular Clock

Applying Classification



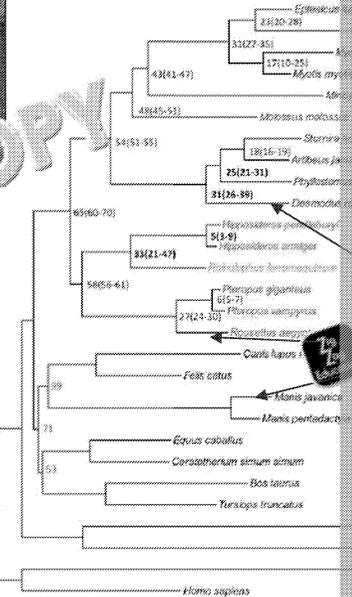
Rock hyrax (*Procavia capensis*)



Spectacled flying fox (*Pteropus conspicillatus*)  
A member of the unranked clade Rhinolophoidea

Spectacled flying fox (*Pteropus conspicillatus*)  
A member of the unranked clade Megachiroptera

The root...



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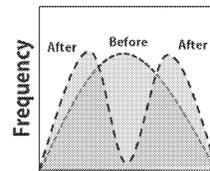
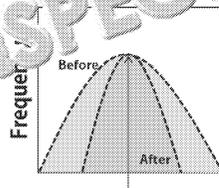
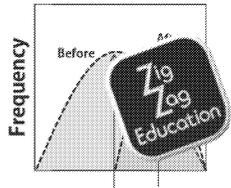
### Evolution and Speciation

- There are two major forms of speciation...
- Adaptive radiation...
- Pre-zygotic...
- Hybridisation...

### Disruptive and Acquired Traits

### Natural Selection

#### Selective Breeding



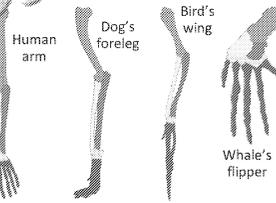
### Gene pool



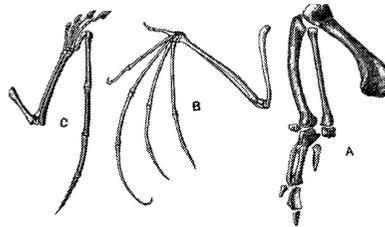
## A4.1: Evolution and Speciation

### Evidence for Evolution Comparing sequences

#### Homologous Structures



#### Analogous Structures



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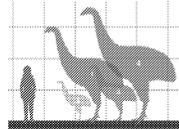
# A4.2: Conservation of Biodiversity

## Conservation of Biodiversity

- Species diversity
- Species richness
- Species evenness



### North Island Giant Moa

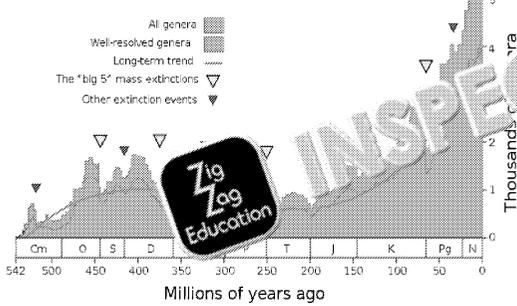


### The Biodiversity Crisis

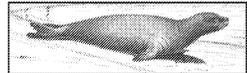


## Diversity Over Geological Time

Biodiversity during the Phanerozoic



### Caribbean Monk Seal



### Conservation



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## IB Topic on a Page, Theme A: Mark S

### A1.1 Water

1.
  - a) 1 oxygen atom, 2 hydrogen atoms
  - b) Unequal sharing of electrons (between the oxygen and hydrogen atoms); leads to a partial negative charge (on the oxygen), and a slight positive charge (on the hydrogens) / leads to slight opposite parts of the molecule
  - c) (Strong) covalent bond within the molecule
  - d) (Weak) hydrogen bonds between adjacent molecules
2.
  - a)
    - i. A force of attraction between water molecules
    - ii. Surface tension is generated/made/created by / exists because of the cohesive force
    - iii. Small aquatic organisms such as the water strider are able to walk on the surface of water
  - b) A force of attraction between water molecules and another molecule (e.g. cellulose)
  - c) In combination the strong cohesive force between water molecules, and the strong adhesive force between water and walls of the xylem vessels / cellulose cause capillary action; in which water is pulled up the xylem vessel. (While the cohesive force of water is held together by cohesion, the adhesive force between water and the xylem vessels also work against gravity, preventing water from falling out of the vessels at the top of the xylem vessels via transpiration, the water is pulled up the xylem vessels (due to the cohesion between molecules).
3.
  - a) Polarity
  - b) Ionic molecules such as salts are easily 'pulled apart' by water due to the attractive forces between the ions and the water molecule
  - c) Small organic molecules often dissolve easily in water due to the hydrogen bonds between the hydrogens or oxygens on the outer surface of the organic molecule
  - d) An excellent **medium** for life; essential for cell **metabolism** (as reactions can occur between dissolved molecules); easy transport of dissolved molecules (e.g. mineral ions, nutrients, and dissolved substances can be held in the same space (e.g. a cell))
  - e)
    - i. **Hydrophilic** ii. **Hydrophobic**
  - f)

	Can dissolve	Cannot dissolve
Triglyceride	✗	✓
Testosterone	✗	✓
Fructose	✓	✗

4.
  - a) 4200 J/(kg•°C)
  - b) It takes 4200 J to heat up one litre of water by 1 °C
  - c) A lot of energy is needed to change the temperature of water; this means that water has a high specific heat capacity. This is important in aquatic environments, and even organisms themselves (due to the high water content in their bodies). It is important to allow enzymes to work effectively, as this will only happen at their optimal temperature.
  - d) Water can carry energy away from organisms that it is in contact with; aquatic organisms have a high surface area to volume ratio, which allows for good insulation to survive in an aquatic environment; (this is also why you are more comfortable in cold water than in cold air)
5.
  - a) Buoyancy is generated by the strong attraction between water molecules, which makes water a liquid and also means that water resists being pulled apart
  - b) This allows marine organisms to float or remain close to the surface, and also to move through the water with less effort
6.
  - a) Condensation reactions are chemical reactions which result in the release of water when two organic molecules are joined
  - b) Hydrolysis reactions are chemical reactions which require the input of water; in which a large molecule is broken down into two smaller ones
  - c) Synthesis of structural polymers (e.g. cellulose, structural proteins); synthesis of energy storage molecules (e.g. glycogen, starch)
  - d) Digestion – breakdown of glycogen to glucose in the liver and muscle cells
7.
  - a) Buoyancy – lighter but non-hollow bones provide some buoyancy, but also allow birds to fly; viscosity – due to adaptations for the higher viscosity of water, loons have legs set further back on the body and slightly flattened leg bones makes loons more efficient swimmers in viscosity water, but this also makes it difficult to walk on land; high thermal conductivity of water – feather structure generates a barrier to water, and provides the insulation needed to survive in water, due to water's high thermal conductivity
  - b) Buoyancy – denser bones allow the seal to stay submerged without effort; viscosity – adaptation to water's high viscosity; high thermal conductivity of water – the seal stays warm underwater: outer coat of fur (traps air), and thick blubber; high specific heat capacity of water – mechanisms due to steady temperature of habitat

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8. a) (HL) Almost  $1.4 \times 10^9 \text{ km}^3$   
 b) (HL) Early Earth was very hot (with little to no atmosphere), meaning any water that had been lost back out to space  
 c) (HL) During the first few hundred million years, Earth was bombarded by thousands of comets that contained water  
 d) (HL) 1. Earth is the perfect distance from the Sun to maintain water in a liquid state  
 2. Earth's **gravity** is sufficient to hold liquid water (and even some gases) in place  
 e) (HL) The Goldilocks zone is the region of space which is close enough to the solar system to generate liquid water, while also being far enough from the Sun to be cool enough not to boil/evaporate away  
 f) (HL) It is the region of a solar system capable of supporting life

### A1.2 Nucleic Acids

1. Completed table should be as below – essential words for a completed blanks are underlined

Ribonucleic acid (RNA)	Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)
Contains the sugar <u>ribose</u>	Contains the sugar <u>deoxyribose</u>
Adenine, <u>guanine</u> , cytosine and <u>uracil</u>	Adenine, <u>guanine</u> , cytosine and <u>thymine</u>
<u>Short</u> , single chain	<u>Long</u> , double chain
Short-lived unstable molecule	Long-lived stable molecule
Transfers genetic information during protein synthesis	Stores genetic information
Three kinds ( <u>mRNA</u> , <u>tRNA</u> , and <u>rRNA</u> ). <u>rRNA</u> is a structural component of ribosomes.	Can exist in association with proteins to form <u>chromatin</u> and <u>chromosomes</u>

2. Through condensation reactions; between the phosphate of one (DNA or RNA) base and the hydroxyl group of another base, forming the phosphodiester bond
3. a) Infinite  
 b) Any length is possible  
 c) Using the formula  $4^n$ , where  $n$  is the length of the DNA molecule in terms of the number of nucleotides
4. a) The ATP molecule consists of a nitrogenous base (adenine), ribose sugar, and phosphate group  
 b) The ATP molecule includes a string of three phosphate groups, rather than just one
5. a) i. nucleotide; ii. phosphate group; iii. N-containing base; iv. phosphodiester bond  
 b) i. deoxyribose; ii. nitrogenous bases; iii. phosphate; iv. anti-parallel; v. hydrogen bonds; vi. base pairing; vii. function; ix. division; x. inherited; xi. backbone; xii. stable; xiii. weak; xiv. they are not; xv. code; xvi. chromosomes  
 c) (HL) i. purines; ii. single; iii. size/width; iv. supercoiling; v. histone; vi. 8; vii. linked
6. (HL) Gap in text, i. 5' to 3'; Headings, ii–iv. Replication, Transcription, Translation
7. (HL) Completed table should read:

Scientist	What they did	Conclusion
Hershey and Chase	Used radioactively tagged <u>sulfur and phosphorus in viral proteins and DNA to track their / the DNA's location.</u>	Proved that <u>DNA</u> is responsible for the inheritance of genetic information
Chargaff	Used paper chromatography to <u>separate (and measure amounts of) the four bases.</u>	Analysis of frequency of bases showed that <u>A+G = T+C</u> . From this he concluded that <u>complementary base pairing</u> exists

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**A2.2: Cell Structure**

1.
  - a) Optical microscopy
  - b) Electron microscopes
    - i. scanning electron microscope
    - ii. transmission electron microscopy
  - c) freeze-fracture
  - d) Fluorescent stains
  - e) Immunofluorescence
  - f) Cryogenic electron microscopy
  - g) Equation 1: Actual size =  $\frac{\text{Image size}}{\text{Magnification}}$   
 Equation 2: Eyepiece graticule unit =  $\frac{\text{Micrometer units}}{\text{Number of graticule units}}$
2.
  - a) plasma membrane; b) temporary vacuole; c) permanent vacuole; d) 80s ribosome; e) cell wall; f) cytoplasm; g) cell wall; h) cytoplasm; i) mitochondria; j) cytoskeleton; k) rough endoplasmic reticulum; l) smooth endoplasmic reticulum (SER); m) Golgi body / Golgi apparatus; n) lysosome
  - o) i. animal; ii. plant; iii. fungus
3.
  - a) plasma; b) circular DNA; c) flagella; d) capsule; e) 70s ribosome; f) cell wall; g) plasma membrane
4.
  - a) No cell walls; form **multinucleate** filaments
  - b) **Multinucleate**
  - c) Incapable of dividing to form new cells; lack genetic material / a nucleus
  - d) Have cytoplasm, but lack organelles, therefore cannot carry out most functions of cells for most life functions)
5.
  - a) i. nutrition; ii. movement; iii. nutrition; iv. excretion; v. reproduction
  - b) i. nutrition; ii. response to stimuli; iii. movement; iv. homeostasis

**A2.1: Origins of Cells HL & A2.2: Cell Structure HL**

1.
  - a) CH<sub>4</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>, and H<sub>2</sub> (in any order), H<sub>2</sub>O
  - b) electrical, lightning
  - c) condensed, collected
  - d) clear, pink, dark
  - e) amino acids
2.
  - a) billion; b) gradually; c) different; d) oxygen; e) ozone; f) UV; g) high; h) temperature; i) spontaneously; j) activation; k) frequent; l) energy; m) water; n) hydrothermal; o) water
3.
 

Compartmentalisation: the separation of cell components and reactions from an external precursor to life. This function could have been carried out by **vesicles** which spontaneously form.

Amphipathic: the amphipathic nature of phospholipids allows them to naturally form vesicles.

Self-assembly: the spontaneous formation of vesicles in water, and the compartmentalisation would allow the process of **self-assembly**, an essential key precursor to the formation of cells.
4. Catalysis; Self-replication
5.
  - a) genetic; b) code; c) ancestor; d) enzymes; e) RNA; f) organisms; g) universal; h) 3.5 billion years; i) stromatolites; j) cyanobacteria; k) 4.5; l) archaea; m) anaerobic; n) vents; o) sulfide
6.
  - a)
    - i. An early cell, which was probably quite large but inefficient at respiration, was engulfed by a more efficient prokaryotic cell.
    - ii. Rather than digesting this prokaryote, the large cell provided a safe and nutritious environment for the cell to live. In return, the small cell provided significant amounts of ATP. This mutualistic relationship continued when the cells divided. Over time the small prokaryote developed into the mitochondrion.
    - iii. (At a later point) another prokaryote / a photosynthetic prokaryote / a cyanobacterium was engulfed by a similar process.
  - b)
    1. Mitochondria and chloroplasts have DNA (which is circular like prokaryotes).
    2. 70s ribosomes (a characteristic feature of prokaryotic cells) found in both organelles.
    3. These organelles are self-replicating even though they can no longer survive on their own.
7.
  - a) Homeobox genes control certain activities which are necessary in all cells (such as cell division)
  - b) 4000
  - c) Differentiation pathways
  - d) Turning new genes 'on', and sometimes turning others 'off'
  - e) Gene expression
8.
  1. (Allows) sexual reproduction / increases genetic variation
  2. (Allows) greater complexity / the ability to fill a wide range of ecological niches / increased body size
  3. Increased lifespan

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### A2.3: Viruses (HL only)

1.
  - a) 20–300 nm
  - b) By a protein coat
  - c) Capsid
  - d) Single-stranded DNA; double-stranded DNA; single-stranded RNA; double-stranded RNA
  - e) 4
  - f) They do not carry out any chemical reactions as they rely on host cell metabolism
  - g) Conversion of viral RNA into DNA
  - h) In the lipid envelope / on the outside or final layer of the virus
2.
  - a) Viruses were probably among the first life forms to evolve
  - b) It is likely that viruses 'came into existence' more than once
  - c) Theories of viral evolution
  - d) It is very possible that their similarities are due to convergent evolution
3.
  - a) Host bacterial cell; b) Host DNA; c) Phage DNA circular; d) Phage proteins are not
4.
  - a) The phage infects a cell; b) The phage DNA is incorporated / joined with / merges with
  - c) The (host) cell divides; d) Under favourable (gen) conditions
5.
  - a) Bacteriophages; b) early stage; c) enveloped; d) DNA; e) bacterial
6.
  - a) family; b) cold; c) prokaryotic; d) single-stranded RNA; e) animals; f) quickly; g) proof
7.
  - a) retroviral; b) mechanism; c) mutations; d) immune
8.
  - a)
    1. Infection with the virus does not lead to immunity from future infections
    2. Vaccines must be continually developed (e.g. the flu vaccine, for which the virus changes so often) this causes an economic drain on society
  - b)
    1. Opportunities for **recombination**
    2. Large population size
    3. Shorter replication cycles
    4. Mode of replication – RNA viruses tend to have higher mutation rates as they lack 'checking' mechanisms
    5. **Transmissibility** – viruses which are highly contagious move from host to host easily, providing opportunities for mutation

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### A3.1 Diversity of Organisms

1. a) Fully or partially determined by the environment in which the organism is living makes during its lifetime
- b) Note: answers will vary – credit any sensible suggestion  
Expected answers include: eating different food, doing different amounts of exercise, different levels / types of exercise
- c) The observable differences in the size and shape / morphology, between males and females
- d) Particular genetically controlled characteristics / genes are only **expressed** in a particular sex. Males and females of the same species look very different
- e) Interspecific variation / the genetic variation between different species; and sex differences
2. a) i. **Genus name**, given first, written with a capital letter  
ii. **Species name**, given second, written with a lower-case letter
- b) italics, underlined
3. a) **(HL)** A sequence of DNA from within a gene which is distinctive between species
- b) **(HL)** Water and soil
- c) **(HL)** Environmental DNA sequencing allows scientists to identify which species are present in an environment. This can be useful for ecology and conservation)
4. a) If individuals from both two populations are able to mate, and produce healthy, fertile offspring, then the two populations may not be separate species
- b) In some cases the two populations may not mate at all due to reproductive isolation (geographical isolation, temporal isolation, behavioural isolation), or offspring will be infertile
5. a) **(HL)** During the process of speciation it may be difficult but not impossible for the two populations to interbreed successfully, causing mixed findings; asexually reproducing species do not have a biological species concept. The biological species concept implies all individuals are separate species. Alternative answer: asexually reproducing species which never use sexual reproduction. Each individual is a separate species if the biological species concept were strictly applied. Only individuals able to breed with others of its kind
- b) **(HL)** The parents have different numbers of chromosomes. The offspring do not have the same number of chromosomes, and cannot produce viable gametes during meiosis.
6. a) The human **karyotype** is similar to the karyotypes of the other great apes, indicating common ancestry. The human chromosome 2 is homologous to chromosomes 2p (2a/13) and 2q (14) in the chimpanzee karyotype. As the smaller chromosomes exist in all great apes, this indicates that chromosome fusion occurred during human evolution.
- b) Number of chromosomes, the banding patterns on each chromosome, and the overall appearance of the karyotype
7. a) genome; b) sequencing; c) human; d) began;
- e) institutions (accept suitable alternatives, e.g. universities, research teams, or countries)
- h) nucleotide; i) sequence; j) function; k) organisms; l) technology; m) cheaper; n) common; o) more; p) personalised; q) evolution
8. **(HL)** There should always be only two possibilities at each branching point in the diagram



#### A4.1: Evolution and Speciation

1. a) Note: answers will vary – credit any suitable suggestion  
Possible answers include: large muscles from strenuous work or body building.
- b) Mutation
- c) Inheritance / The transfer of genetic information from parent to offspring / Vertical transmission
2. a) population; b) environment; c) differing; d) reproduce; e) advantage; f) frequency; g) i. Directional, ii. Stabilising, iii. Disruptive
3. a) Evolution; b) control; c) purpose; d) domesticated; e) breeds; f) wild; g) selectively bred
4. All the genes and alleles present in all individuals in a population
5. a) DNA, RNA, and protein / amino acids
- b) Structures which are similar across a clade, although they may look very different
- c) Homologous structures are evidence of shared ancestry, and form through the process of divergence when closely related organisms gradually evolve to adapt to different environments
- d) Pentadactyl limb
- e) Grasping; lifting; walking / running / terrestrial locomotion; flying; swimming
- f) Structures which are superficially similar (appear similar on the surface) due to convergent evolution, which share no common ancestry
- g) Convergent evolution occurs when unrelated organisms (often in different locations) evolve similar (analogous) structures to appear through different evolutionary paths (bats and pterosaurs look superficially similar but are very different on a molecular level due to separate evolutionary origins)  
A pair of marsupial and placental mammals, or Old World and New World animals
6. a) Reproductive isolation / no gene flow, and the accumulation of genetic differences
- b) Change in allele frequencies; creation of new alleles via mutation (in one population through duplication); chromosomal changes
- c) **Reproductive isolation:** if genes are able to flow between the two populations, the populations will be shared, such that divergence cannot happen  
**Differing selection pressure:** when two populations are subjected to different environments, the divergence of their gene pools, as different alleles and genes will be favoured  
**Mutation:** genetic mutations generate new alleles; when there is no gene flow, mutation will be restricted to one population, adding to the genetic differences
- d) If the genetic differences between the two populations are sufficient to prevent the two populations from breeding successfully (able to produce fertile offspring), then they are considered separate species
- e) The Congo River
- f) They are no longer the same species / their genetics have become too dissimilar
7. a) **(HL)** When one species or one small group of species adapts to fill many vacant niches in the process
- b) **(HL)** Following a major extinction event; when a single species finds its way to a new area with low diversity (e.g. Darwin's finches)
8. a) **(HL)** When the karyotype is duplicated, generating a karyotype of  $4n$ ,  $6n$ , or even  $8n$
- b) **(HL)** Hybridisation among plants sometimes causes duplication of the chromosomes, which the chromosome number may be  $4n$ ,  $6n$ , or even  $8n$ . Occasionally such hybridisation occurs within themselves but not with the parent population, instantaneously generating a new species
9. **(HL)** Pre-zygotic: mate recognition, sperm recognition, behavioural isolation, temporal isolation  
Post-zygotic: hybrid inviability, hybrid breakdown, hybrid infertility

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## A4.2: Conservation of Biodiversity

1.
  - a) General increase over time
  - b) Periods of rapid **diversification** and the generation of new species (**speciation**)
  - c) Survivors adapt and evolve to fill vacant **ecological niches** through the process of natural selection
2.
  - a)
    - i. **Species richness** – the number of different species in the area of interest
    - ii. **Species evenness** – describes the distribution of individuals among different species
    - iii. **Biodiversity index** – a calculation / an equation used to measure species diversity, taking into account both species richness and species evenness
  - b) The species richness in the garden on the left appears lower than the garden on the right because of a smaller number of plant species. The garden on the left is dominated by a particular grass species.
3.
  - a) The variation which exists within the physical environment, including both biotic and abiotic factors, means that within the ecosystem there are many different ‘micro’ habitats
  - b) The garden shown on the right shows small changes such as adding a fruit tree, and choosing not to remove ‘weeds’ which have greatly increased the **habitat** diversity
4.
  - a) The variation which exists within the **gene pool** of a particular population (Higher genetic diversity leads to greater **resilience**, making a population more able to cope with changes in its environment)
  - b) Allowing the grass in the garden to seed between mowings could have allowed genetic diversity to increase
5. Hunting by Maori people; Predation of chicks by the Polynesian dogs (introduced by the Maori); Predation of eggs by dogs and rats (also accidentally introduced by human settlers)
6.
  - a) 2008
  - b) 1952
  - c) Hunting by people for oil and meat (exacerbated by their docile nature and lack of fear); Overfishing of the reefs in which the seals hunted (causing many seals to die of starvation)
7.
  - a) 1. **Overharvesting** and overhunting; 2. **Habitat destruction** and degradation (including deforestation); 3. Introduction of **invasive species**; 4. **Pollution**; 5. Rapid climate change
  - b) Around 100 to 1000 species per year
  - c) The **sixth mass extinction**
  - d) Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
  - e) (Founded in 2012 by 94 countries) IPBES aims to support the use of scientific information in policy-making on conservation and biodiversity
  - f) Data collection carried out by ‘non-scientists’
  - g) Note: answers will vary – credit any appropriate response. It is likely most students will mention the full ToaP sheet: e.g. the RSPB’s Big Garden Birdwatch (which has helped to track the distributions of Britain’s birds)
  - h) **Anyone can be involved**, so citizen science allows for much greater amounts of data to be collected. There is a **set procedure**, or certain combinations of data required to be submitted and analysed, combined reliably.
8.
  - a) Previous logging industry, and current expansion of the palm oil industry
  - b) Population decline of many animals and plants (e.g. orangutan, endemic dipterocarpaceae trees). Massive biodiversity loss (though rates are unknown due to large proportion of species being undocumented)
9.
  - a) Climate change, pollution, and damage from divers and fishing boats
  - b) Coral bleaching and biodiversity loss, and major loss of local economy and culture
10.
  - a) Conservation methods which occur within the natural habitat
  - b) Tracking and monitoring, reintroduction of rewilding, ecosystem restoration / re-creation of degraded ecosystems
  - c) Conservation methods which happen outside the natural environment
  - d) Gene and seed banks provide a store of genetic material which can be used to support conservation efforts, to remain genetically viable, and possibly even bring back extinct species
  - e) Behavioural research can help by informing in situ conservation efforts, making it easier to identify and protect populations of a species. Genetic and reproductive research helps to support captive breeding programmes
  - f) Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered
  - g) The Zoological Society of London (ZSL)
  - h) By effectively identifying priority species
  - i) 1. Belonging to a very small clade, with few or no close relatives (Evolutionarily Distinct); 2. Being at high risk of extinction, usually all known populations are threatened, or there may be only one population (Globally Endangered)

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