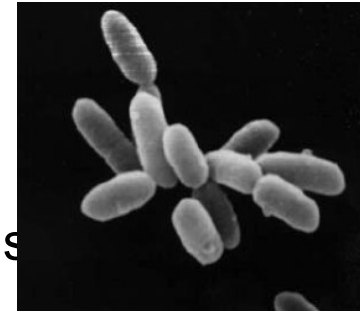


The Characteristics of Life

The oldest fossils on Earth are from 3.4 billion years ago. They come from an organism similar to simple bacteria called Archaea. All life has evolved from these simple cells



Metabolism - is the sum of all the chemical reactions in the body.

If you have a fast metabolism you generally move more quickly.
If you have a slow metabolism you move more slowly.



Continuity of Life - means that living things arise from other living things of the same type.



5 Characteristics of Living Things

1. Organisation

Cells form tissues, tissues form organs and organs form Systems.
All living things are made of cells.

2. Nutrition

Is the way organisms get and use their food.

Food is needed for energy, growth and repair.
Plants use sunlight to make their food by photosynthesis. Animals get food from plants or other animals.



3. Excretion

Is the removal of waste products **made in the body.**

e.g. breathing, sweating and urinating.

All living things excrete wastes.

Plants have less wastes than animals.

4. Response

Response is the way all living things **react to changes in their environment**. These changes are called stimuli.

Animals generally show rapid responses, while plants show slower responses. However there are always exceptions.



5. Reproduction

The whole point of life is to reproduce. Reproduction is how life began.

Asexual Reproduction - does not involve sex cells and produces clone. Clones are identical copies of an individual. e.g. like bacteria

Sexual Reproduction - involves sex cells (gametes). The offspring from two parents carries DNA from both parents. This means the offspring is slightly different from both parents.