

Living Thing Definition A living thing pertains to any organism or a life form that possesses or shows the characteristics of life or being alive. The fundamental characteristics are as follows: having an organized structure, requiring energy, responding to stimuli and adapting to environmental changes, and capable of reproduction, growth, movement, metabolism, and death. Currently, living things are classified into three Domains: (Eu)Bacteria (true bacteria), Archaea (archaeobacteria), and Eucarya (eukaryotes).

Etymology The term living came from the Old English lifende, meaning “living” or “having life”. The term thing came from the Old English þing, meaning “entity”, “being”, “body”, or “matter”. Synonyms: organism; life form; creature. **History** While Earth is presumed to be about 4.54 billion years old, life on Earth began later, probably around 3.5 billion years ago, although others believe that life may have started earlier than that.

Abiogenesis The origin of life, also referred to as abiogenesis, refers to the natural process in which life came about from non-living matter. How this occurred remains a matter of debate among scientists. Till now, there is no consensus as to how life on Earth began. **Primordial soup** The “primordial soup” refers to the hypothetical model of the primitive Earth wherein it accumulated organic material and water resembling a soup. This soup served as a site where organic compounds were synthesized. A widely accepted research finding is that of the Miller–Urey experiment. Apparently, the simulated-primitive Earth favored the chemical syntheses of the basic structure of the cell membrane (e.g. phospholipids forming lipid bilayers) and organic compounds from inorganic sources. The primordial soup is also the edict of the heterotrophic theory of the origin of life proposed by Alexander Oparin and John Burdon Sanderson Haldane.