

Concept 1.1

Biology explores life from the global to the microscopic.

Levels of organization

1. **Biosphere** - (global scale), consists of all the parts of the planet that are inhabited by living things.
2. **Ecosystem** - a community of living things in an area, along with the nonliving features of the environment that support the living community.
3. **Organisms** - individual living things.
4. **Cells** - are life's basic units of structure and function; all organisms are made of one or more cells.
5. **DNA and Genes** - the chemical responsible for inheritance; contains the instructions for a cell to make all the other molecules it needs to function. Along each strand of DNA are units of inherited information called genes.