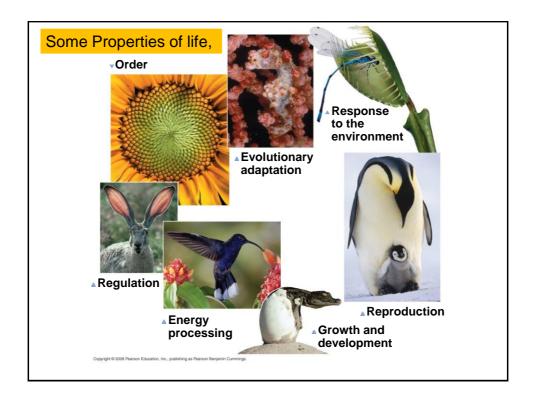


Overview: Inquiring About Life

- An organism's adaptations to its environment are the result of evolution
 - For example, the ghost plant is adapted to conserving water; this helps it to survive in the crevices of rock walls
- Evolution is the process of change that has transformed life on Earth

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- Biology is the scientific study of life
- · Biologists ask questions such as
 - How does a single cell develop into an organism?
 - How does the human mind work?
 - How do living things interact in communities?
- · Life defies a simple, one-sentence definition
- · Life is recognized by what living things do



Concept 1.1: The themes of this book make connections across different areas of biology

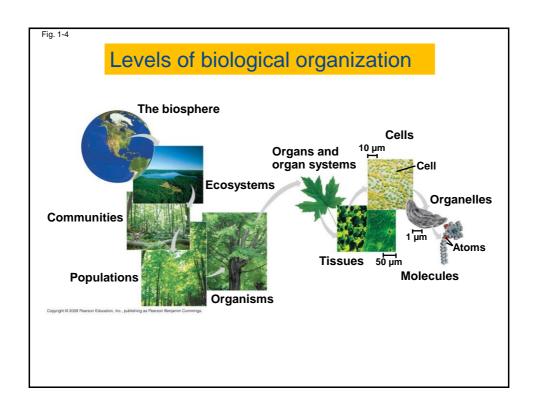
- Biology consists of more than memorizing factual details
- Themes help to organize biological information

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Theme: New Properties Emerge at Each Level in the Biological Hierarchy

- Life can be studied at different levels, from molecules to the entire living planet
- The study of life can be divided into different levels of biological organization

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Emergent Properties

- Emergent properties result from the arrangement and interaction of parts within a system
- Emergent properties characterize nonbiological entities as well
 - For example, a functioning bicycle emerges only when all of the necessary parts connect in the correct way

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The Power and Limitations of Reductionism

- Reductionism is the reduction of complex systems to simpler components that are more manageable to study
 - For example, studying the molecular structure of DNA helps us to understand the chemical basis of inheritance

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Systems Biology

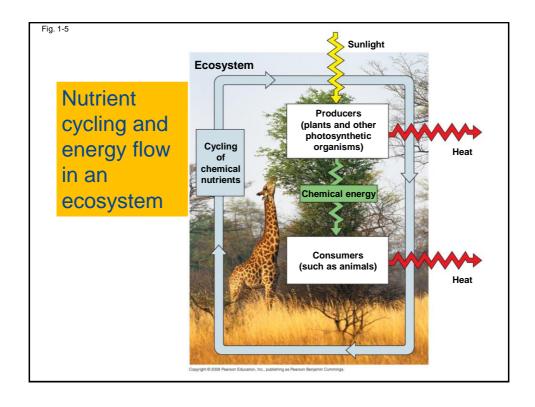
- A system is a combination of components that function together
- Systems biology constructs models for the dynamic behavior of whole biological systems
- The systems approach poses questions such as
 - How does a drug for blood pressure affect other organs?
 - How does increasing CO₂ alter the biosphere?

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Theme: Organisms Interact with Other Organisms and the Physical Environment

- Every organism interacts with its environment, including nonliving factors and other organisms
- Both organisms and their environments are affected by the interactions between them
 - For example, a tree takes up water and minerals from the soil and carbon dioxide from the air; the tree releases oxygen to the air and roots help form soil

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- Humans have modified our environment
 - For example, half the human-generated CO₂ stays in the atmosphere and contributes to global warming
- Global warming is a major aspect of global climate change
- It is important to understand the effects of global climate change on the Earth and its populations

Theme: Life Requires Energy Transfer and Transformation

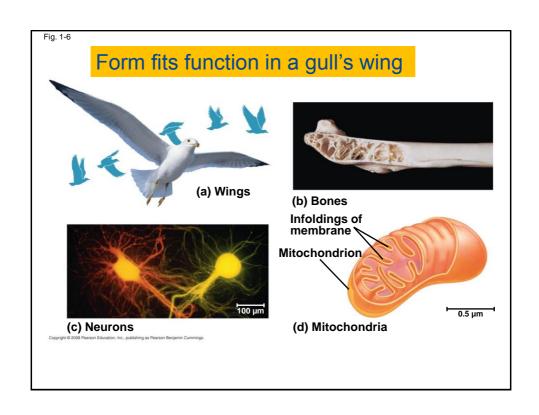
- A fundamental characteristic of living organisms is their use of energy to carry out life's activities
- Work, including moving, growing, and reproducing, requires a source of energy
- Living organisms transform energy from one form to another
 - For example, light energy is converted to chemical energy, then kinetic energy
- Energy flows through an ecosystem, usually entering as light and exiting as heat

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Theme: Structure and Function are Correlated at All Levels of Biological Organization

- Structure and function of living organisms are closely related
 - For example, a leaf is thin and flat, maximizing the capture of light by chloroplasts
 - For example, the structure of a bird's wing is adapted to flight

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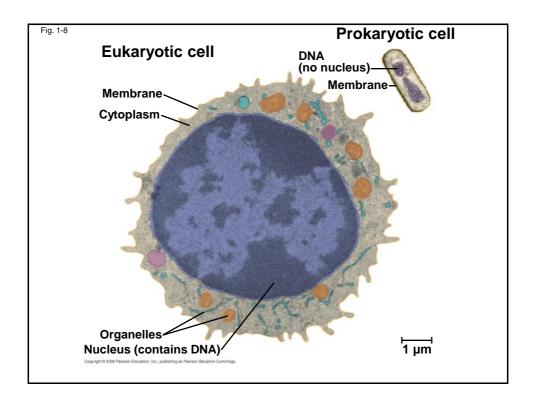
Theme: The Cell Is an Organism's *Basic Unit of Structure and Function*

- The cell is the lowest level of organization that can perform all activities required for life
- All cells:
 - Are enclosed by a membrane
 - Use DNA as their genetic information

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- A eukaryotic cell has membrane-enclosed organelles, the largest of which is usually the nucleus
- By comparison, a prokaryotic cell is simpler and usually smaller, and does not contain a nucleus or other membrane-enclosed organelles

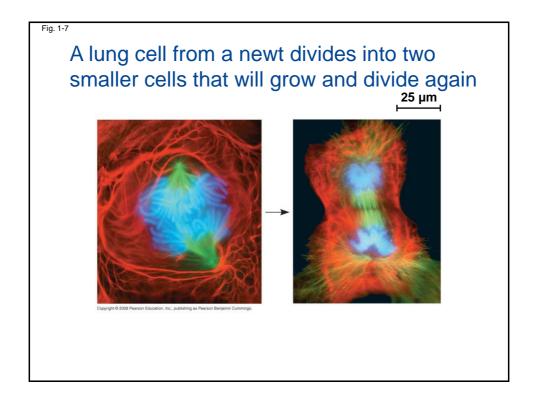
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Theme: The Continuity of Life Is Based on Heritable Information in the Form of DNA

- Chromosomes contain most of a cell's genetic material in the form of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid)
- DNA is the substance of genes
- Genes are the units of inheritance that transmit information from parents to offspring
- The ability of cells to divide is the basis of all reproduction, growth, and repair of multicellular organisms.

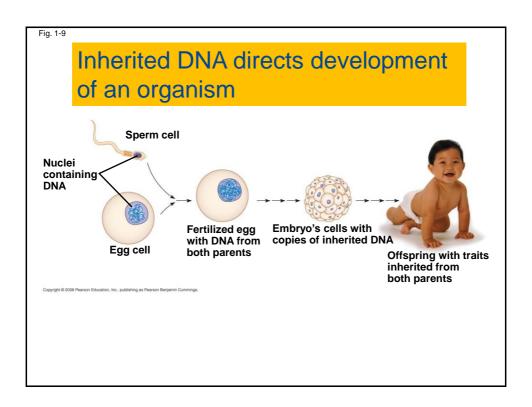
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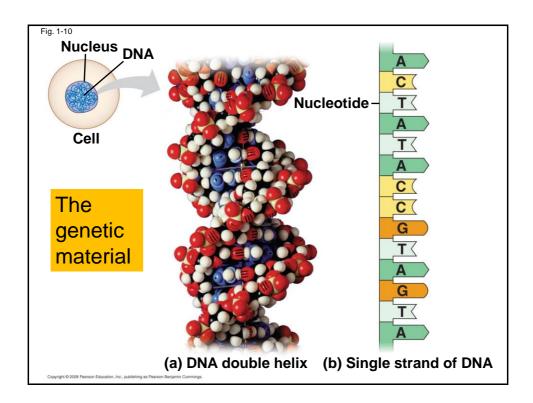
DNA Structure and Function

- Each chromosome has one long DNA molecule with hundreds or thousands of genes
- Genes encode information for building proteins
- DNA is inherited by offspring from their parents
- DNA controls the development and maintenance of organisms

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- Each DNA molecule is made up of two long chains arranged in a double helix
- Each link of a chain is one of four kinds of chemical building blocks called nucleotides and nicknamed A, G, C, and T



- Genes control protein production indirectly
- DNA is transcribed into RNA then translated into a protein
- Gene expression is the process of converting information from gene to cellular product

Genomics: Large-Scale Analysis of DNA Sequences

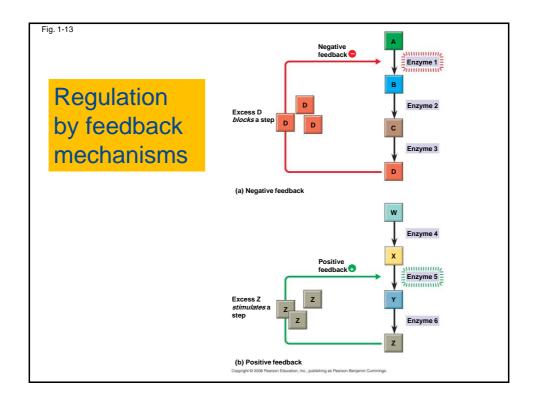
- An organism's genome is its entire set of genetic instructions
- The human genome and those of many other organisms have been sequenced using DNAsequencing machines
- Genomics is the study of sets of genes within and between species
- Bioinformatics, which is the use of computational tools to process a large volume of data

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Theme: Feedback Mechanisms Regulate Biological Systems

- Feedback mechanisms allow biological processes to self-regulate
- Negative feedback means that as more of a product accumulates, the process that creates it slows and less of the product is produced
- Positive feedback means that as more of a product accumulates, the process that creates it speeds up and more of the product is produced

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Evolution, the Overarching Theme of Biology

- Evolution makes sense of everything we know about biology
- Organisms are modified descendants of common ancestors

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- Evolution explains patterns of unity and diversity in living organisms
- Similar traits among organisms are explained by descent from common ancestors
- Differences among organisms are explained by the accumulation of heritable changes

Concept 1.2: The Core Theme: Evolution accounts for the unity and diversity of life

- "Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution"
- Evolution unifies biology at different scales of size throughout the history of life on Earth

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Classifying the Diversity of Life

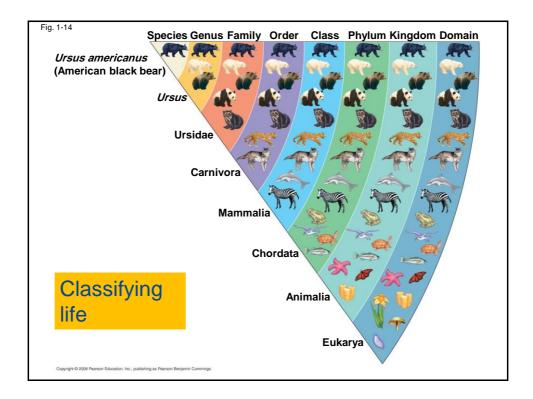
- Approximately 1.8 million species have been identified and named to date, and thousands more are identified each year
- Estimates of the total number of species that actually exist range from 10 million to over 100 million

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Grouping Species: The Basic Idea

- Taxonomy is the branch of biology that names and classifies species into groups of increasing breadth
- Domains, followed by kingdoms, are the broadest units of classification

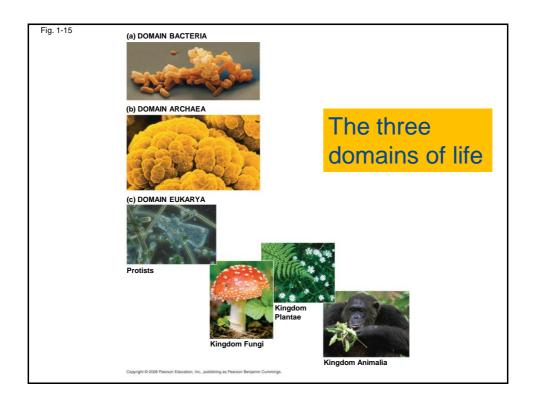
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The Three Domains of Life

- Organisms are divided into three domains
- Domain Bacteria and domain Archaea compose the prokaryotes
- Most prokaryotes are single-celled and microscopic

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- Domain Eukarya includes all eukaryotic organisms
- Domain Eukarya includes three multicellular kingdoms
 - Plants, which produce their own food by photosynthesis
 - Fungi, which absorb nutrients
 - Animals, which ingest their food

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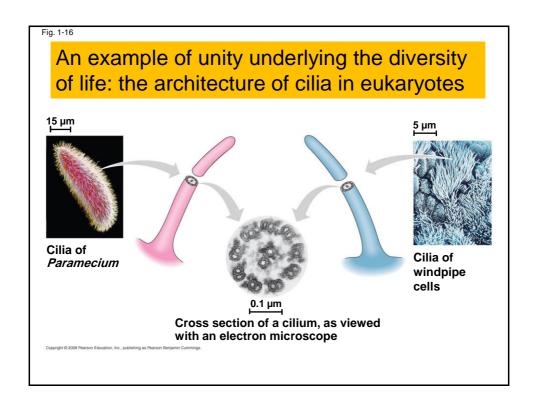
 Other eukaryotic organisms were formerly grouped into the Protist kingdom, though these are now often grouped into many separate groups

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Unity in the Diversity of Life

- A striking unity underlies the diversity of life; for example
 - DNA is the universal genetic language common to all organisms
 - Unity is evident in many features of cell structure

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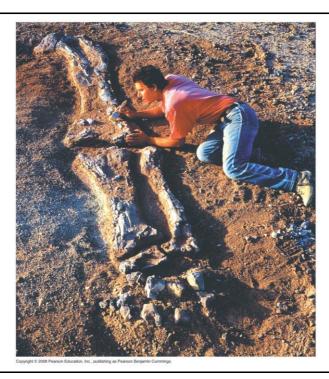


Charles Darwin and the Theory of Natural Selection

 Fossils and other evidence document the evolution of life on Earth over billions of years

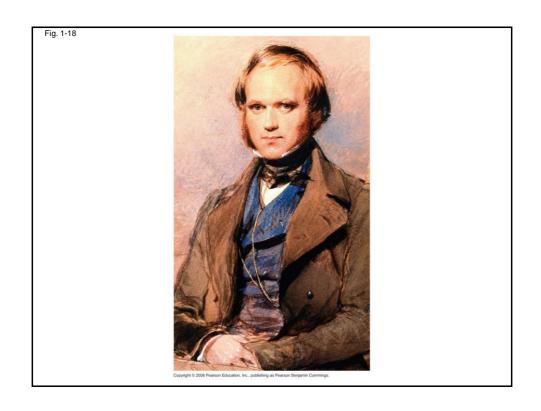
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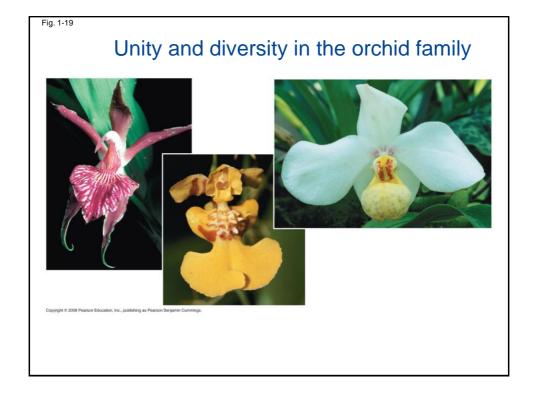
Fig. 1-17



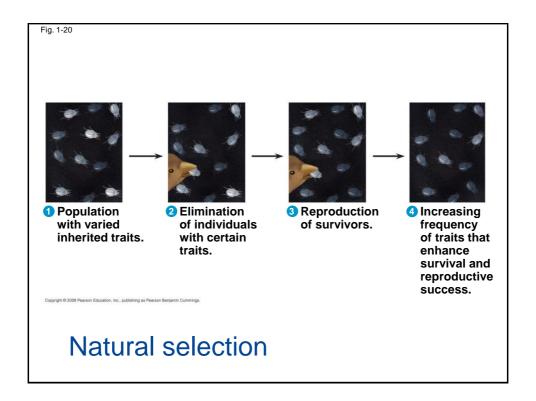
- Charles Darwin published On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection in 1859
- Darwin made two main points
 - Species showed evidence of "descent with modification" from common ancestors
 - Natural selection is the mechanism behind "descent with modification"
- Darwin's theory explained the duality of unity and diversity

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- The environment "selects" for the propagation of beneficial traits
- Darwin called this process natural selection



- Natural selection results in the adaptation of organisms to their environment
 - For example, bat wings are an example of adaptation

The Tree of Life

- "Unity in diversity" arises from "descent with modification"
 - For example, the forelimb of the bat, human, and horse and the whale flipper all share a common skeletal architecture
- Fossils provide additional evidence of anatomical unity from descent with modification

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- Darwin proposed that natural selection could cause an ancestral species to give rise to two or more descendent species
 - For example, the finch species of the Galápagos Islands are descended from a common ancestor
- Evolutionary relationships are often illustrated with treelike diagrams that show ancestors and their descendents

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