Themes of Biology

Section 1-1 (p. 5-10)

Essential Question(s)

 List and briefly describe the five major themes in Biology. (Related to Essential Skill 1-1. Characteristics of Life.)

The Study of Life



- <u>Biology</u> is the study of life
 - Organism a living thing
- The Scope of Biology ranges from:
 - Microscopic structures to
 - Global interactions of millions of organisms

Major Themes of Biology

- These themes connect all life-forms:
- 1. Cell structure & function
- 2. Stability & Homeostasis
- 3. Reproduction & Inheritance
- 4. Evolution
- 5. Interdependence of Organisms
- 6. Matter, Energy & Organization









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Cell Structure & Function







Kingdom Plantae



Kingdom Fungi



Kingdom Animalia



Protists (multiple kingdoms)

- <u>Cells</u> are the basic unit of life (all organisms are made of cells)!
 - Unicellular organisms have only one cell
 - Multicellular organisms have many cells
- All cells:
 - Are surrounded by a membrane
 - Contain genetic information

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Different Types of Cells

- Multicellular organisms are made up of many different types of cells
 - Differentiation is the process by which cells become different from one another
 - Examples: muscle cells, nerve cells, blood cells, etc



Stability & Homeostasis



(b) Regulation

- <u>Homeostasis</u> is the maintenance of relatively stable internal conditions
- All organisms maintain homeostasis
 - Examples: water
 balance, body
 temperature, blood
 sugar levels, etc.

Reproduction & Inheritances

- All organisms produce new offspring like themselves
 - <u>Reproduction</u> is the process of creating new offspring
- During reproduction, organisms pass on hereditary information
 - <u>**DNA</u></u> is the molecule that holds hereditary information
 </u>**
 - A gene is a segment of DNA that codes for a specific trait



(f) Reproduction

Types of Reproduction





- Sexual reproduction
 occurs when hereditary
 information from two
 individuals is combined
- Asexual reproduction occurs when a single organism produces an offspring identical to itself

Evolution

- <u>Evolution</u> is a change in a population over time
 - Populations evolve, not single organisms
- Natural selection is the driving force of evolution
 - Organisms with traits that are best suited to their environment are more likely to survive & reproduce



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Interdependence of Organisms





- Ecology is the study of how organisms interact with each other & the environment
 - An ecosystem is an environmental community
- Humans have an affect on environments all over the world

Matter, Energy & Organization

- Organisms must obtain & use energy to survive
 - Most of the energy on Earth comes from the sun through
 - **Photosynthesis** is the process of capturing energy from the sun to produce food
- Organisms get energy in different ways:
 - Autotrophs produce their own food through photosynthesis
 - Heterotrophs consume other organisms for food

