

Introduction

VOCABULARY

organism – a living thing that goes through all the processes of life

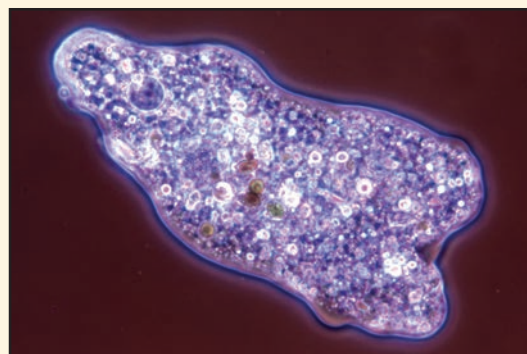
Life science is the study of **organisms**. Organisms are living things that go through all the processes of life. In other words, organisms are things that are alive. They can be large or small. For example, large things like trees and humans are organisms. However, there are some organisms that are so tiny that they can only be seen through a microscope.

Organisms have several common characteristics. Organisms are made of parts that work together. They reproduce, change over time, and behave in certain ways for certain reasons. Each organism can be placed in a specific category based on its characteristics.

Scientists who study life science are called biologists. Biology is another word for life science. There are so many things for biologists to study that many of them decide to specialize, or study one thing very carefully. For example, zoologists specialize in studying animals, and botanists specialize in studying plants. In this student text, you will learn about the basic biology of plants, animals, and other organisms.



Plants and animals are organisms.



Some organisms are so small that humans cannot see them.

