

The Hierarchy of Life

A cell is the smallest functional unit that can perform all of life's tasks. A living organism may consist of a single cell or a huge number of cells. In multicellular organisms, cells are specialized and depend on other cells to maintain life. The specialization and interdependence of cells contribute to a characteristic hierarchy of life, with each level defined by its structure and function.



CELL

Basic unit of life



TISSUE

A group of specialized cells that work together for a particular function



ORGAN

A distinct structure made up of different tissues that have a specific function



ORGAN SYSTEM

A collection of organs that carry out specific functions within an organism



ORGANISM

A living thing that carries out all of life's functions

