

TABLE 1.1 Shared characteristics of all life forms. Steven Bottomley (Curtin University), personal communication.

The tenets of life on Earth

- A highly organized, dynamic, and complex cellular system of enzyme-catalyzed chemical transformations.
 - Ability to extract, transform, and use energy from the environment.
 - Self-assembly of simple building blocks into complex molecules and structures.
 - Ability to self-replicate.
 - Ability to sense and respond to the environment.
 - Ability to evolve.
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