

Colloidal droplets Large droplets in stable suspension in a solution.

Concentration gap Basically the problem of achieving concentrated solutions from dilute solutions under prebiotic (pre-life) conditions.

Continental drift The relative movement of the continents over the Earth's surface.

Continuous creation theory The theory that the Universe had no beginning in space and time, but rather existed in a steady state condition with new matter being continuously created.

Cosmic rays Very high-speed, subatomic, charged particles (primarily protons) emitted by the Sun and other stars.

Craton An ancient stable area of the continental crust that has been relatively unaffected by deformation for prolonged periods of geologic time.

Cro-Magnon Man A name commonly used for a member of the prehistoric species *Homo sapiens sapiens* who lived in the area of modern Europe.

Cyanobacteria A form of bacteria sometimes confused with blue-green algae because of the similarity between the cell wall formations.

DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) A molecule composed of alternating units of nucleotides in the shape of a double helix. DNA carries the genetic code.

Dolomite rock A type of limestone composed of over 15% magnesium carbonate. It occurs either as a primary precipitate from seawater (an evaporite) or from the alteration of calcite rock by magnesium-charged solutions (dolomitization).

Ecological niche The lifestyle of an organism or species in a particular habitat.

Ectotherm An organism whose temperature is determined primarily by the temperature of its environment.

Electromagnetic force Commonly thought of as the force operating between electrically charged particles. However, in addition to being important in the structure of atoms and molecules, the electromagnetic force, by means of massless particles called photons (particles of light), transmits radiation across the spectrum at wavelengths from gamma and x-rays through ultraviolet, visible light, infrared, and radio waves.

Electron A small elementary particle with a negative charge that normally circles the nucleus of an atom.

Endotherm An organism whose temperature is regulated by its own metabolism.

Enzyme A specialized protein compound that controls or mediates a chemical reaction in a living organism.

Eukaryotes Organisms whose cells have true nuclei. Eukaryotes include higher plants and animals and many single-celled organisms.

Evolution by random chance The belief that statistical probability alone is sufficient to account for the physical Universe and all life, including humans.

Evolutionary radiation Rapid divergence of ancestral organisms into new adaptive types.

Explosive adaptive radiation A rapid branching out of basic life forms into a variety of related forms that adapt to varying ecological niches.

Extraterrestrial forces Forces from outside the planet Earth and its atmosphere.

Fault block mountains A mountain range consisting of an elongated body of rock that was elevated between parallel normal faults.

Felid A member of the cat family.

Ferric oxide A red compound of iron and oxygen (Fe_2O_3).

Formaldehyde A colorless pungent gas (CH_2O).

Fossils Remains of past life. Fossils include skeletal remains, impressions in the form of casts or molds, trace fossils, coprolites (fossilized feces) and chemical fossils.