


Astrobiology

Astrobiology is the study of the origin, evolution, distribution, and future of life in the universe.

LEARN MORE about astrobiology:
astrobiology.nasa.gov

SEE how scientists are imagining life beyond Earth:
pbs.org/video/2365229669



Researchers studying the amount of methane oxidized by microbes in Sunnydale, California.

Astrobiologists ask how life began, how different life forms developed through time, where living things exist today, and how living things may continue to evolve in the future. They study plants, animals, and other living things on Earth to learn more about the varied forms life can take. They also investigate extreme environments on Earth to develop predictions about where else in the universe we might find life, and what forms it could take. This information gives them clues about where and how to search for life beyond Earth.

NASA missions are exploring the habitability of other worlds in our solar system and around other stars. Each mission has research teams made up of engineers and scientists with diverse interests and expertise, including computer engineers, mechanical engineers, aerospace engineers, biologists, astrophysicists, atmospheric scientists, and planetary scientists.



Researchers studying microbial life in the crater of Mutnovsky Volcano in Kamchatka, Russia.