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Life on Earth depends upon water. Water comprises 95 to 99% of our own bodies and covers 71% of the earth's surface. It serves different functions ranging from its transport function through serving as solvent for most chemicals to serving habitat to many organisms. Many organisms also depend on water for certain stages of their life. For instance, some insects and amphibians use water as their breeding sites while it serves as an agent of dispersal for many plant seeds and fruits.

Furthermore water has many beneficial purposes for human beings including agriculture, energy production, recreational purposes, household uses and drinking water supply.





Water is a critical issue for the survival of all living organisms. Some can use salt water but many organisms including the great majority of higher plants and most mammals must have access to fresh water to live. Some terrestrial mammals, especially desert rodents appear to survive without drinking but they generate water through the metabolism of cereal seeds and they also have mechanisms to conserve water to the maximum degree.

Water[°]is Life



Another interesting example to life without water is the order Tardigrada. Tardigrades belong to an elite category of animals known as extremophiles, or critters that can survive environments that most others can't. For instance, tardigrades can go up to 30 years without food or water. The tardigrades can form a dormant state where they shrivel up into a ball, expel most of the water in their bodies, and lower their metabolism via cryptobiosis until they enter an environment with optimal conditions for sustaining life.

*cryptobiosis' (hidden life) and defined it as 'the state of an organism when it shows no visible signs of life and when its metabolic activity becomes hardly measurable, or comes reversibly to a standstill.



Hydrobiology

In general, hydrobiology is a branch of science focusing on water (fresh, marine or brackish) and aquatic living organisms (bacteria to large sea mammals) and their interactions. Furthermore, hydrobiology also focuses on the processes and the environmental variables which might affect the physico-chemical parameters and biological composition of water bodies.





