Environmental Health Very Short Course

Environment – Health Continuum STEM Foundations and Connections

with David Petering Director, NIEHS Children's Environmental Health Sciences Core Center University Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Short Course Topics

Introduction to environmental health

Introductory framework: organism and the environment

Examples of environmental adaptation: interconnectedness of life

Implications for the environment and human health of the discovery and domestication of fossil hydrocarbons

Key concepts in environmental health: multiple exposures-mixtures vulnerable populations-children role of the built environment multiple confounding factors-causal relationships

Public Health and Environmental Health

Former President, Medical College of Wisconsin, Michael Bolger

There are four things that determine your health:

- -Your parents genetics
- -Your personal habits (smoking, alcohol, etc.)
- Your environment
- -Your health care system, which contributes at 5% to your health and costs \$1.5-2 trillion dollars per year in the USA

UWM School of Public Health

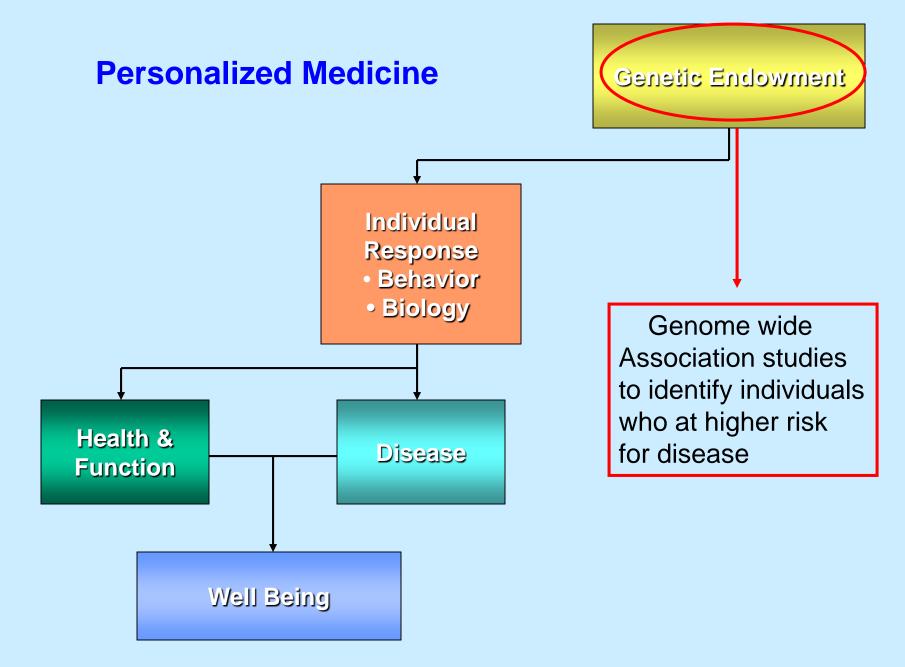
Environmental and Occupational Health Epidemiology Community and Behavioral Health Health Administration and Policy

Characteristics

Interdisciplinary: natural and social sciences Population based

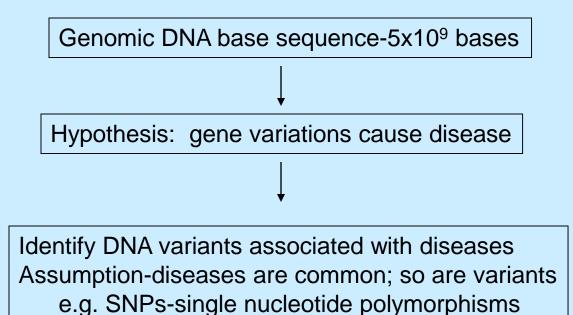
Focus: physical and social health well-being of populations

Science and Society



Adapted from Evans, R. G., & Stoddart, G. L. (1990). Producing health, consuming health care. *Social Science and Medicine*, *31*, 1347-1363.

Genome-Wide Association Studies

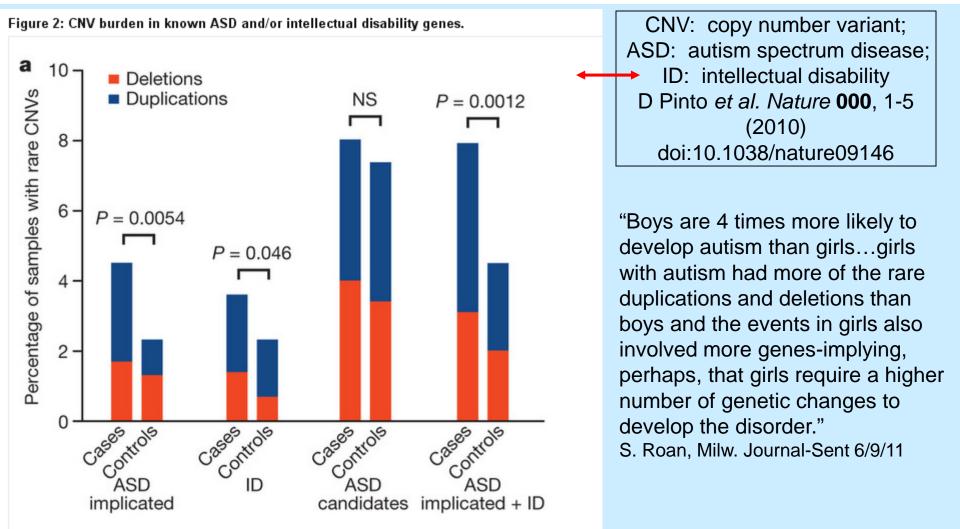


Researchers ID certain genes tied to autism

By Mark Johnson of the Journal Sentinel

Posted: June 9, 2010 | 🗬 (3) сомментя

An international team of researchers unveiled the most detailed picture yet of the genetic causes of autism, identifying specific genes and pathways that play a role in the complex disorder, and that can now be targeted by drug companies hoping to provide treatment for millions worldwide.



Major Heart Disease Genes Prove Elusive

So far, genome-wide association studies have not found common genes with a big impact on heart health; researchers hope that the low-effect genes they are finding will help identify pathways and drug targets

THE EXCITEMENT BEGAN 5 YEARS AGO, with two copies of the suspect gene variation. Researchers had used a new strategy: They searned large stretches of the genomes of the sick and the healthy and found a single DNA hase that was much more likely to be present in those whose eyes were failing.

NEWSFOCUS

The finding was remarkable: Relatively fow people participated in the study, yet those identifying people at risk for diseases, uncov-12 new genetic variants, called single-

when a study of 146 Caucasian volunteers ant had 10 times the risk of macular desenturned up a common gene variant among eration, a huge increase. Furthermore, the those with the eye disease macular degener- method the group used, called genome-wide association (GWA), had some big advan- Clues missing tages: It was unbiased, testing thousands of The first GWA results for heart disease hit gene-disease associations at once, not just a in 2007. Three studies examined coronary researcher's favorites And it pointed to com- artery disease, in which plaque builds up uals studied. GWA studies offered hope of with subsequent studies, they identified §

ering new disease mechanisms, and finding newtargets fortherapy. Almost immediately, researchers applied

GWA to other conditions. But they were quickly stymied. "People did studies with 300 or 500 people and didn't find anything, then did 1000 and didn't find anything," says Deepak Srivastava, who directs the Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular Disease at the University of California (UC), San Francisco, It quickly became clear that macular degeneration was an exception. Most GWA studies needed10,000 ormore volunteers toget a statistically significant result, because the effect of each gene was so small.

Since the human genome was sequenced 10 years ago, technology has mosed with lightning speed; many now believe that GWA methods, which cover a fraction of the genome, are becoming obsolete. Sequencing costs continue to plunge, and within a few years sequencing entire genomes of hundre ds of subjects will be financially feasible.

ଷ

g

What has the GWA experience taught us? The results from one group of GWA studies. for heart disease, are typical, with a mixed re or dand an uncertain leancy. The technique has identified dozens of variants, but all have weak effects so far, almost none has led to DNA changes that actually cause disease. Researchers have had more success finding variants that link to tightly defined conditions like high cholesterol than to heart failure, a catch-all disease.

"At the end of the day, we have a bunch of loci and genes, but none of them" do all that much to raise the risk of heart disease, says Fric Topol, a cardiologist and director of the Scripps Translational Science Institute in San Diego, California. Nor have they yet altered our understanding of how the heart falters-knowledge, Topol says, that will take time to develop

GWA studies still have many backers, "We have new technology that's enabled us to look at things we've never seen before," says Bruce Psaty, a cardiovascular disease epidemiologist at the University of Washington (UW) School of Medicine in Seattle. And Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has said that the approach has provided "1000 new drug tasgets" (Science, 28 May, p. 1090).

mon variants, found in at least 5% of individ- in the arteries and narrows them. Together

4 JUNE 2010 VOL 328 SCIENCE www.sciencemag.org Publiched by AAAS

The authors conclude that although GWA studies have identified several genetic loci, particularly for breast, prostate and colon cancer, "the explanatory power of these loci to predict individual cancer risk is limited. . .." In other words, the average level of risk for associations identified by GWA studies, although statistically significant, is relatively small, even though other factors may increase the risk for any particular individual. Furthermore, they write: "Performing GWA studies using all currently available samples on common cancers would yield many more genetic loci, but almost all of them would also have small or very small effects."

J. Ioannidis, J. Natl. Cancer Institute, 102, May, 28, 2010

Rare variant hypothesis: many rare genetic changes account for overall risk -Does this provide pathway to reduce incidence or severity of disease? Experience with orphan diseases (rare *genetic* diseases)

The authors conclude that although GWA studies have identified several genetic loci, particularly for breast, prostate and colon cancer, "the explanatory power of these loci to predict individual cancer risk is limited. . .." In other words, the average level of risk for associations identified by GWA studies, although statistically significant, is relatively small, even though other factors may increase the risk for any particular individual. Furthermore, they write: "Performing GWA studies using all currently available samples on common cancers would yield many more genetic loci, but almost all of them would also have small or very small effects."

J. Ioannidis, J. Natl. Cancer Institute, 102, May, 28, 2010

Rare variant hypothesis: many rare genetic changes account for overall risk -Does this provide pathway to reduce incidence or severity of disease? Experience with orphan diseases (rare *genetic* diseases

What is missing here?

The authors conclude that although GWA studies have identified several genetic loci, particularly for breast, prostate and colon cancer, "the explanatory power of these loci to predict individual cancer risk is limited. . .." In other words, the average level of risk for associations identified by GWA studies, although statistically significant, is relatively small, even though other factors may increase the risk for any particular individual. Furthermore, they write: "Performing GWA studies using all currently available samples on common cancers would yield many more genetic loci, but almost all of them would also have small or very small effects."

J. Ioannidis, J. Natl. Cancer Institute, 102, May, 28, 2010

REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL CANCER RISK

What We Can Do Now

President's Cancer Panel, 2009

Re autism DNA modifications:

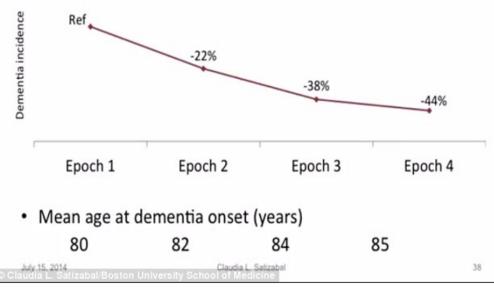
"The obvious conclusion one has to reach is that some environmental exposures may be playing a role." S. Roan, Milw. Journal Sentinel, 6/9/11

Neuropathology and Applied Neurobiology (2014), **40**, 97–105 **Review: The genetics of Alzheimer's disease; putting flesh on the bones**

"A recent meta-analysis by the International Genomics of Alzheimer's Project (IGAP) reported 11 new Alzheimer's susceptibility loci (*CASS4*, *CELF1*, *FERMT2*, *HLA-DRB5/HLA-DRB1*, *INPP5D*, *MEF2C*, *NME8*, *PTK2B*, *SLC24A4/RIN3*, *SORL1* and *ZCWPW1*), and confirmed eight (*CR1*, *BIN1*, *CD2AP*, *EPHA1*, *CLU*, *MS4A6A*, *PICALM* and *ABCA7*) of the nine previously reported genome-wide associations in addition to *APOE* [1]; the exception being *CD33* which failed to replicate. Consequently genetic discoveries within the last 5 years account for ~47% of the population attributable risk (PAR) of LOAD (late-onset AD).

Dementia trends in the FHS

 Progressive decrease in the incidence of dementia in FHS participants



Decline: The federally funded Framingham study, pictured, tracked new dementia cases among several thousand people 60 and older in five-year periods starting in 1978, 1989, 1996 and 2006 and noted a decline

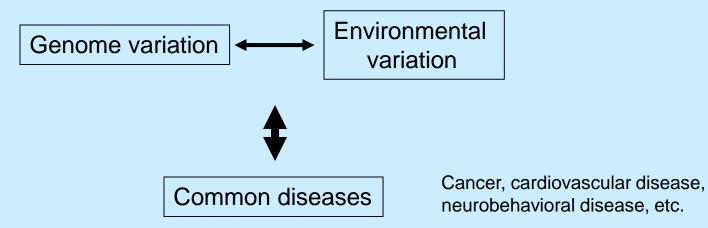
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/

article-2692975/US-rate-Alzheimers -disease-DECLINING.html

Speculation: decline due to education and reduction in risk factors such as heart disease and stroke

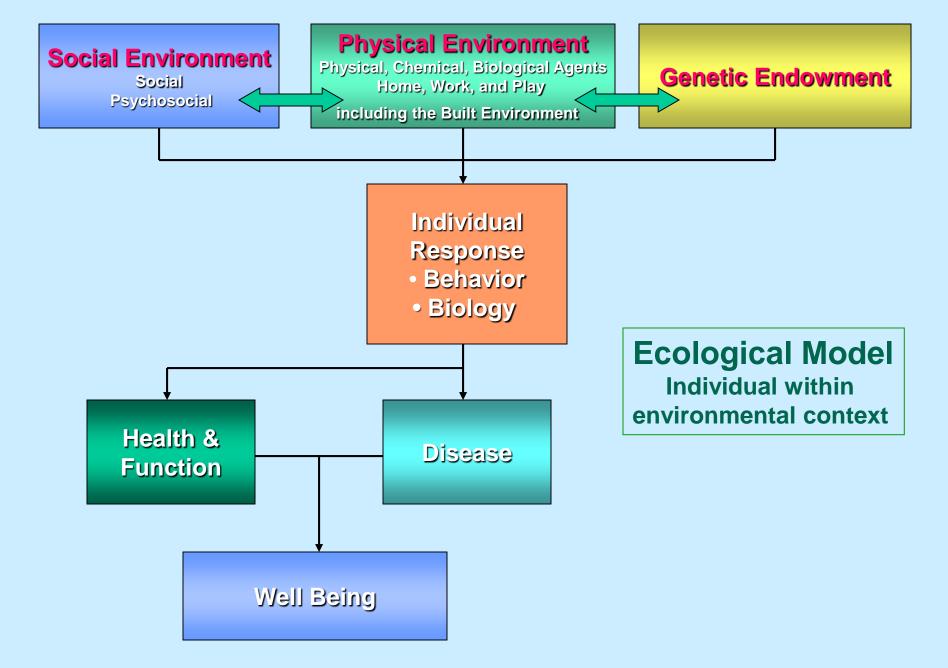
Genomic Analysis Leads to Few Solutions

Alternative hypothesis: genome loads the gun; environment pulls the trigger Kenneth Olden, former Director National Institute of Environmental Health Science

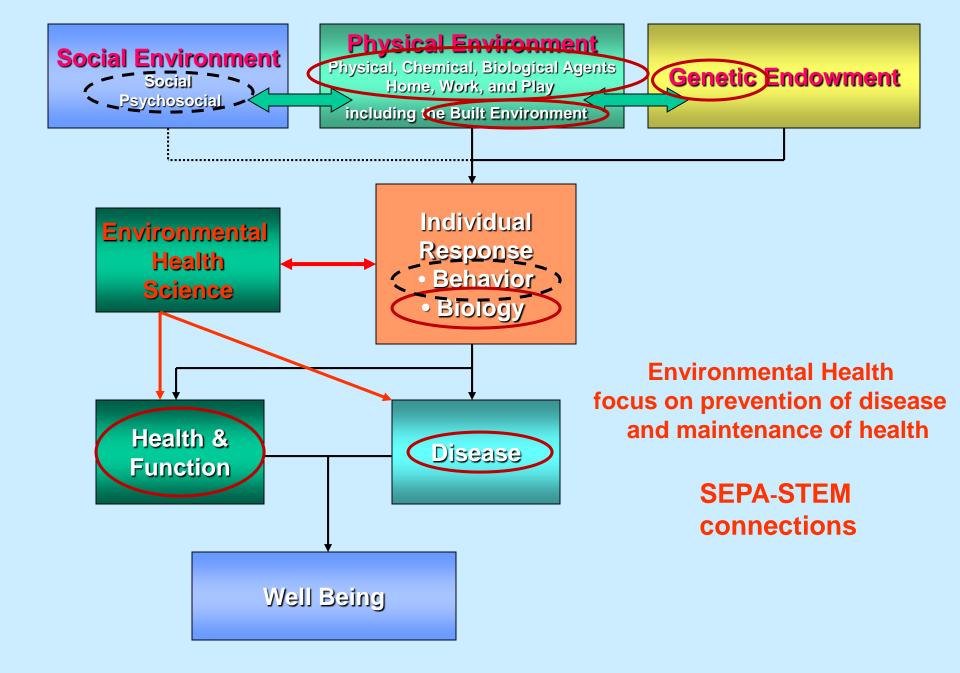


Genetic effects of toxic and essential elements in humans: arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, selenium, and zinc in erythrocytes, Whitfield et al, Environmental Health Perspectives, 118,776 (2010): "Although environmental exposure is a precondition for accumulation of toxic elements, individual characteristics and genetic factors are also important."

Whatever substantial genomic impact that may exist will only reveal itself in relation to the environment!



Adapted from Evans, R. G., & Stoddart, G. L. (1990). Producing health, consuming health care. *Social Science and Medicine*, *31*, 1347-1363.



Centers for Disease Control: Fact Sheet Actual Causes of Death in the United States, 2000

Leading Causes of Death

Heart disease	30%
Cancer	20%
Stroke	7%
Chronic respiratory	
Disease	5%
Injuries	4%
Diabetes	3%
Pneumonia/influenza	3%
Alzheimers disease	2%
Kidney disease	2%

Centers for Disease Control: Fact Sheet Actual Causes of Death in the United States, 2000

Leading Causes of Death		Actual Causes of Death
Heart disease	30%	Tobacco 17%
Cancer	20%	Diet/physical inactivity 15%
Stroke	7%	Alcohol 4%
Chronic respiratory Disease	5%	Infectious agents 4%
Injuries	4%	Toxic agents 3%
Diabetes	3%	Motor vehicles 2%
Pneumonia/influenza	3%	Firearms 1%
Alzheimers disease	2%	Sexual behavior 1%
Kidney disease	2%	Drug use 1%

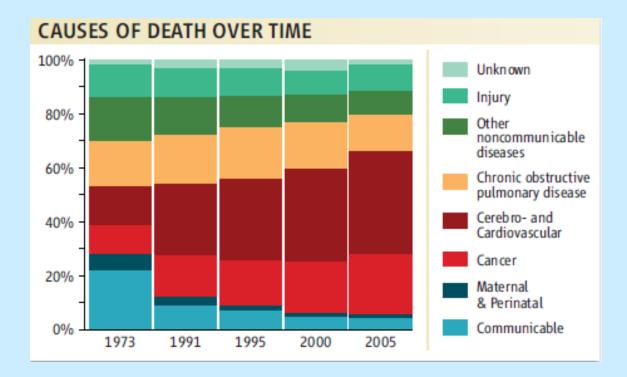
Science Magazine: China Confronts Ailments of Affluence Third World-First World Diseases Science, 328, 422 (2010)



PUBLIC HEALTH

A Sense of Crisis as China Confronts Ailments of Affluence

Science Magazine: China Confronts Ailments of Affluence Third World-First World Diseases Science, 328, 422 (2010)



Science Magazine: China Confronts Ailments of Affluence Third World-First World Diseases Science, 328, 422 (2010)



China's growing affluence is driving sharp increases in what were once considered scourges of the Western world: lung and breast cancer, obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and cerebro- and cardiovascular diseases. A rapidly changing lifestyle appears to be to blame, as Chinese are smoking more; consuming more fat, sugar, salt, and refined grains; and leading increasingly sedentary lives, particularly in cities and booming coastal regions.

Growing affluence is fueled by...

China and the Burning of Coal

New coal-fired power plant every week.

-Air pollution (SO_x, particulates, etc.) and respiratory disease

- -Acid rain and leaching of soil nutrients
- -Release of toxic agents (Hg)
- -CO₂ and energy production
- -Energy to drive an *early stage* industrial economy



Pudong region of Shanghai

Health and Disease – Then as Now

Hippocrates: "Disease is not caused by demons or capricious deities but rather by natural forces that obey natural laws.

The well-being of man is under the influence of the environment, including in particular air, water, places, and the various regimens. The understanding of the effect of the environment on man is the fundamental basis of the physician's art.

Health is the expression of a harmonious balance between the various components of man's nature and the environment and ways of life."

Man Adapting – Rene Dubos

Subduing infectious disease in the 17th and 18th centuries resulted from improvements in sanitation not miracle antibiotics.

Matters of Life and Death: Perspectives on Public health, Molecular Biology, Cancer and the Prospects for the Human Race, John Cairns

Most of our increase in life span is due to better "hygiene" or public health - clean air and water, stable sources of nutritious food, adequate shelter, good *biological* and *chemical hygiene*, etc. In a word, facets of (public) environmental health.

STEM subject matter

Beyond Mortality: Health Determinants: World Health Organization

Chemicals and Pathogens

Food and agriculture

Diet Food biological and chemical contamination Food toxins Occupational hazards and accidents Water quality

<u>Water</u>

Water quality: pathogens, chemicals

Energy

Fossil fuels and air pollution Nuclear power Accidents Indoor pollution

Industry

Occupational chemical exposure Environmental chemical exposure-waste disposal

Built environment

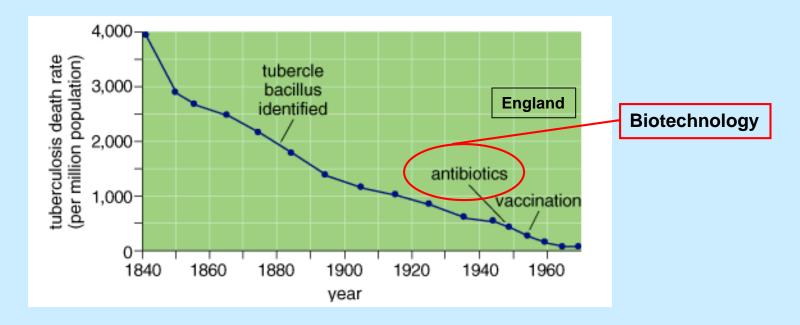
Housing-paint, vermin Garbage disposal Noise Diet and physical activity

International

Long range air pollution Hazardous materials transport Ozone depletion Climate change Ocean pollution Biodiversity loss

Environmental Health

- A society's health is dependent upon the quality of its physical, biological, chemical, and social-economic environment
- Societies that attend to the quality of the environment gain disproportionately in health in relation to their investment in health and well being



Clyde Herzman, "Health and Human Society," American Scientist, 89, 538 (2001).

Biological hygiene

Chemical Hygiene



Executive Summary

Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Environmental Health



BodyBurden The Pollution in Newborns

A benchmark investigation of industrial chemicals, pollutants, and pesticides in human umbilical cord blood

www.ewg.org

10 random specimens of cord blood

Environmental Working Group; 2004

Body burden: the pollution in newborns

- Tested for 413 chemicals
- 287 chemicals detected; 200 average
- Carcinogens,
- Developmental toxicants
 - Birth weight
 - Birth defects
 - Impaired neurodevelopment, etc.
- Impacts of this mixture unstudied and unknown

Urinary Dimethylarsinic Acid

Metabolite of Arsenic

Geometric mean and selected percentiles of urine concentrations (in µg/L) for the U.S. population from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

		Geometric	Selected percentiles					
	Survey	mean	(95% confidence interval)				Sample	
	years	(95% conf. Interval)	50th	75th	90th	95th	size	
Total	03-04	3.71 (3.33-4.14)	3.90 (3.00-4.00)	6.00 (5.00-7.00)	11.0 (9.20-12.0)	16.0 (13.0-17.8)	2568	
Age group								
6-11 years	03-04	3.73 (3.12-4.45)	4.00 (3.00-4.00)	6.00 (5.00-7.00)	9.00 (7.00-12.0)	12.0 (8.00-22.0)	292	
12-19 years	03-04	3.85 (3.34-4.42)	4.00 (3.00-4.00)	6.00 (5.00-7.10)	9.30 (7.70-12.0)	13.0 (10.0-16.0)	728	
20 years and older	03-04	3.69 (3.31-4.11)	3.70 (3.00-4.00)	6.00 (5.00-7.00)	11.0 (10.0-12.0)	16.0 (13.0-19.0)	1548	
Gender								
Males	03-04	4.12 (3.60-4.71)	4.00 (3.70-4.30)	6.00 (5.60-7.70)	11.0 (9.00-15.0)	17.0 (12.1-22.0)	1284	
Females	03-04	3.37 (3.00-3.78)	3.00 (3.00-4.00)	5.50 (4.80-6.20)	10.0 (8.00-11.0)	14.0 (11.0-17.7)	1284	
Race/ethnicity								
Mexican Americans	03-04	4.72 (4.27-5.22)	4.80 (4.00-5.00)	7.00 (6.00-9.00)	12.0 (10.0-16.0)	17.0 (12.0-25.0)	621	
Non-Hispanic blacks	03-04	4.27 (3.71-4.92)	4.00 (3.50-5.00)	7.00 (6.00-8.00)	11.6 (9.00-15.0)	16.0 (14.0-18.7)	725	
Non-Hispanic whites	03-04	3.27 (2.95-3.62)	3.00 (3.00-3.80)	5.00 (4.60-6.00)	9.00 (7.00-10.0)	12.0 (9.50-15.0)	1078	
Limit of detection (LOD, see Data Analysis section) for Survey year 03-04 is 1.7.								

CDC 4th Report on Chemical Exposure

New Chemicals in the Fourth Report

Acrylamide Acrylamide hemoglobin adducts Glycidamide hemoglobin adducts

Perchlorate

50%, 700x LOD

50%, 7x LOD 25%, 8x LOD 50%, 2.5x LOD

50%, 50x LOD

25%. 4x LOD

Total and Speciated Arsenic Arsenic, Total

Arsenic (V) acid Arsenobetaine Arsenocholine Arsenous (III) acid Dimethylarsinic acid Monomethylarsonic acid Trimethylarsine oxide

Environmental Phenois

Benzophenone-3 (2-Hydroxy-4-methoxybenzophenone) Bisphenol A (2,2-bis [4-Hydroxyphenyl] propane) 4-tert -Octylphenol (4-[1,1,3,3-Tetramethylbutyl] phenol) Tridosan (2,4,4'-Trichloro-2'-hydroxyphenyl ether)

Lead (1-5 y)

Mercury

Phthalate Metabolite

Mono-(2-ethyl-5-carboxypentyl) phthalate (MECPP)

Perfluorochemicals

Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBuS) Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDeA) Perfluorododecanoic acid (PFDoA) Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA) Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) Perfluorooctane sulfonamide (PFOSA) Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) -(N-Ethyl-perfluorooctane sulfonamido) acetic acid (Et-PFOSA-AcOH) 2-(N-Methyl-perfluorooctane sulfonamido) acetic acid (Me-PFOSA-AcOH) Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) Perfluoroundecanoic acid (PFUA) Non-Dioxin-Like Polychlorinated Biphenyls 2,2',3,5'-Tetrachlorobiphenyl (PCB 44) 2,2',4,5'-Tetrachlorobiphenyl (PCB 49) 2.2'3.3'4.4'5.5'6.6'-Decachlorobiphenvl (PCB 209)

Brominated Fire Retardants 2,2,4-Tribromodiphenyl ether (BDE 17) 2,4,4'-Tribromodiphenyl ether (BDE 28) 2,2,4,4'-Tetrabromodiphenyl ether (BDE 47) 2,3',4,4'-Tetrabromodiphenyl ether (BDE 47) 2,3',4,4'-Pentabromodiphenyl ether (BDE 85) 2,2',4,4',5-Pentabromodiphenyl ether (BDE 100) 2,2',4,4',5,5'-Hexabromodiphenyl ether (BDE 153) 2,2',4,4',5,6'-Hexabromodiphenyl ether (BDE 154) 2,2',4,4',5,6'-Heptabromodiphenyl ether (BDE 183) 2,2',4,4',5,5'-Hexabromodiphenyl ether (BDE 183) 2,2',4,4',5,5'-Hexabromodiphenyl ether (BDE 183)

DisInfection By-Products

(Trihalomethanes)

Bromodichloromethane Dibromochloromethane (Chlorodibromomethane) Tribromomethane (Bromoform) Trichloromethane (Chloroform)

Volatile Organic Compounds

Benzene Chlorobenzene (Monochlorobenzene) 1.2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP) Dibromomethane 1,2-Dichlorobenzene (ortho-Dichlorobenzene) 1,3-Dichlorobenzene (meta-Dichlorobenzene) 1,4-Dichlorobenzene (para-Dichlorobenzene) 1 1-Dichloroethane 1,2-Dichloroethane (Ethylene dichloride) 1,1-Dichloroethene (Vinylidene chloride) cis-1,2-Dichloroethene trans-1,2-Dichloroethene Dichloromethane (Methylene chloride) 1.2-Dichloropropane 2.5-Dimethylfuran (DMF) Ethylbenzene Hexachloroethane Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) Nitrobenzene Styrene 1.1.2.2-Tetrachloroethane Tetrachloroethene (Perchloroethylene) Tetrachloromethane (Carbon tetrachloride) Toluene 1,1,1-Trichloroethane (Methyl chloroform) 1,1,2-Trichloroethane Trichloroethene (Trichloroethylene, TCE) meta- and para-Xylene

25%, 5x LOD

25%, 6x LOD

25%, 2-4X LOD

50%, 100x LOD 25%, 3x LOD

100%, <LOD

40 µg/100 ml

Chemical Hygiene

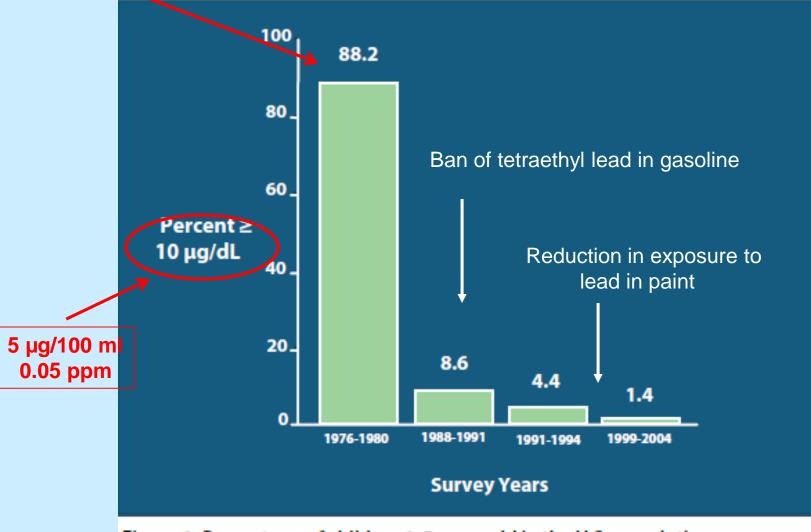


Figure 1. Percentage of children 1-5 years old in the U.S. population with elevated blood lead levels ($\geq 10 \mu g/dL$).¹

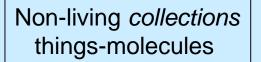
¹Jones RL, Homa DM, Meyer PA, Brody DJ, Caldwell KL, Pirkle JL, Brown MJ. Trends in blood lead levels and blood lead testing among U.S. children aged 1 to 5 years, 1988–2004. Pediatrics 2009;123(3):e376-e385.

Introductory Framework Organism and the Environment

 $\begin{array}{rcl} \text{Non-living} & \to & \text{``Primitive''} \ \text{life} & \to & \text{Early life} & \to & \text{Ecological} \\ \text{collections} & & & & \text{systems} \end{array}$

Why the development of ecological complexity?

Abstract Biochemical Model of Evolutionary-Ecological Life on Earth



Death

Transition to life

-Static -Lack of organization -High *entropy* (low order) Keys are (1) energy source: the sun and means to utilize solar energy and (2) means to maintain identity Living *eco-system*

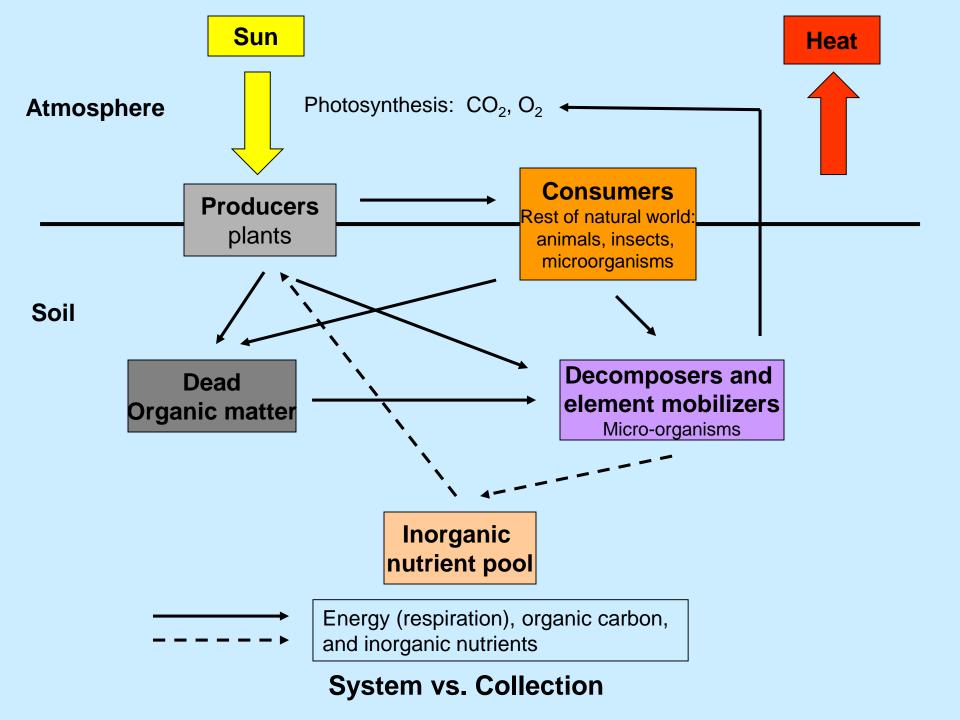
-Dynamic, organized, complex integrated

-Self reproducing (DNA) with maintenance of identity

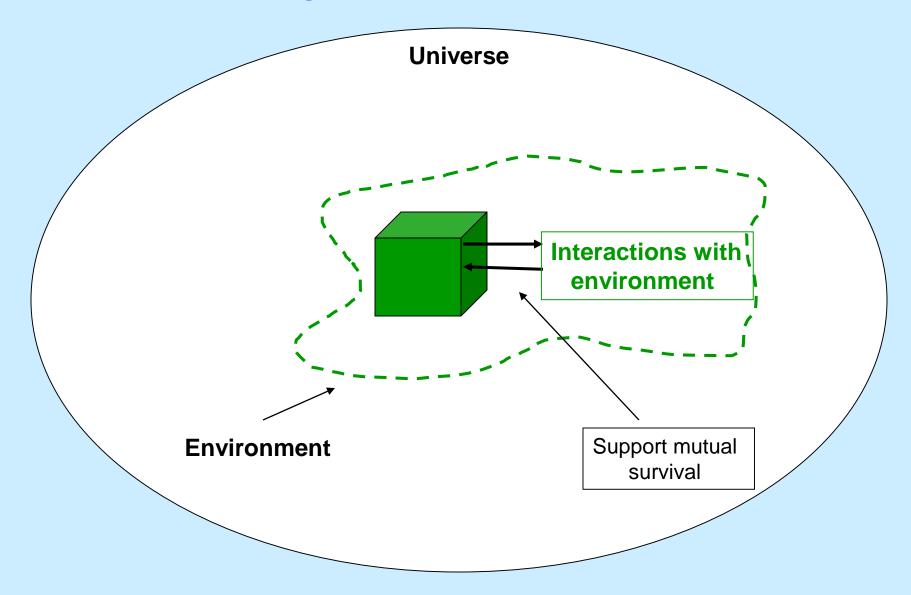
-Low *entropy* (high order)

Evolution

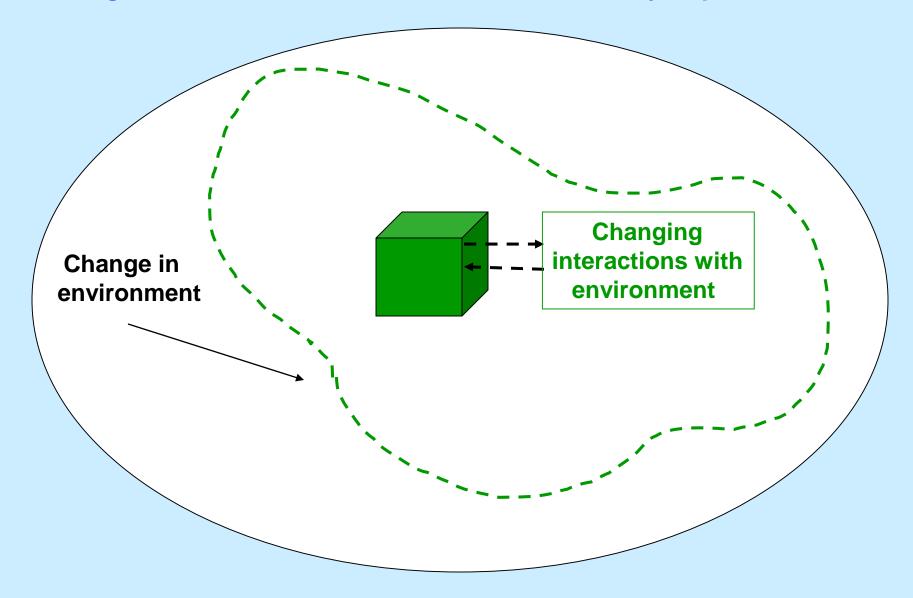
-Opportunity for mutation and slow *selection* process



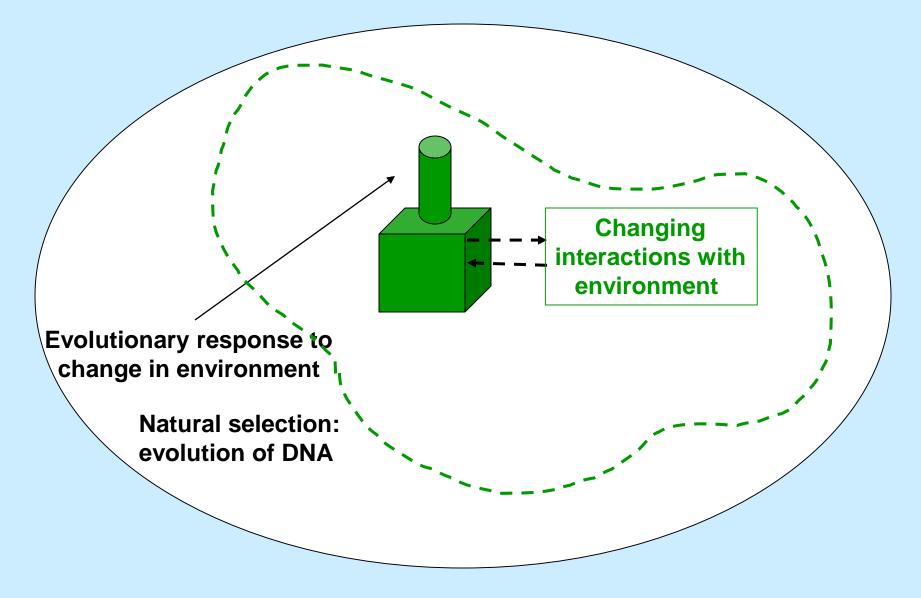
Organisms and the Environment



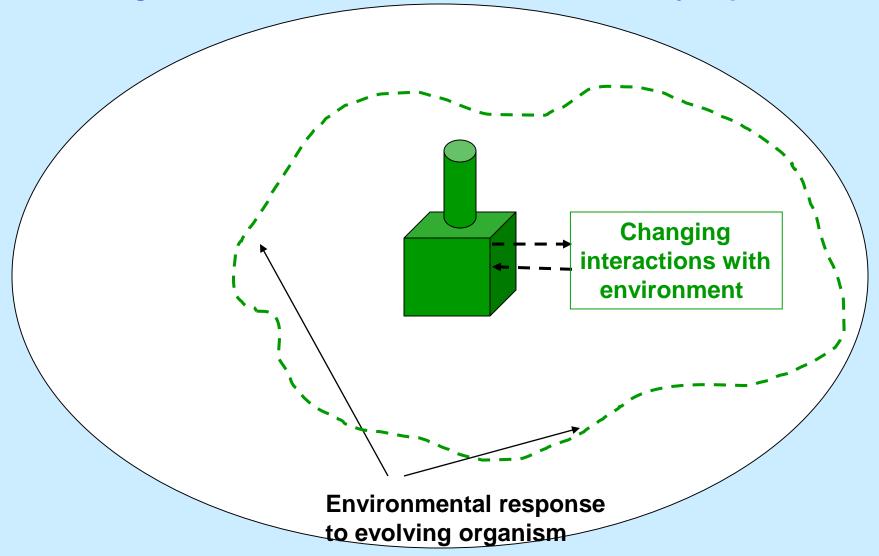
Organisms and the Environment: Evolutionary Implications



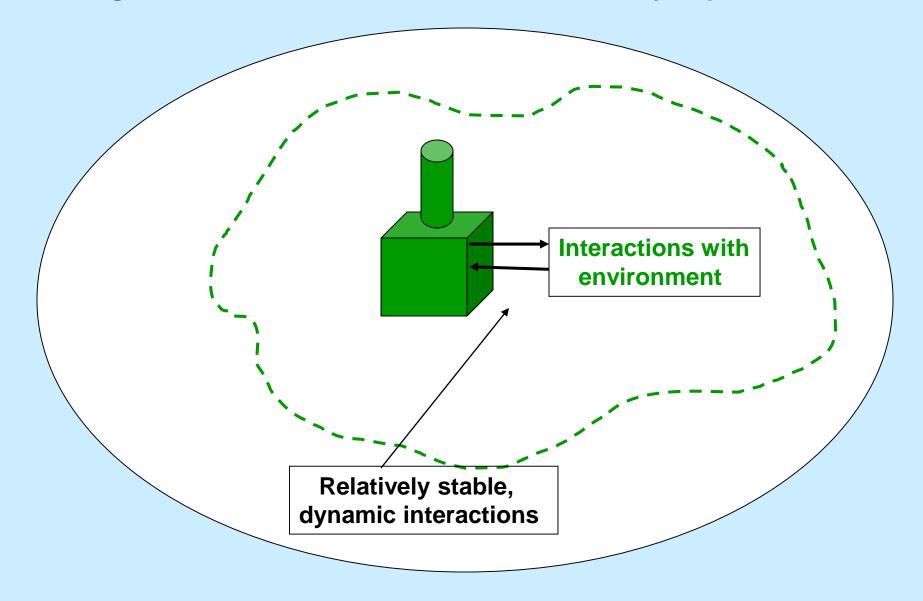
Organisms and the Environment: Evolutionary Implications



Organisms and the Environment: Evolutionary Implications

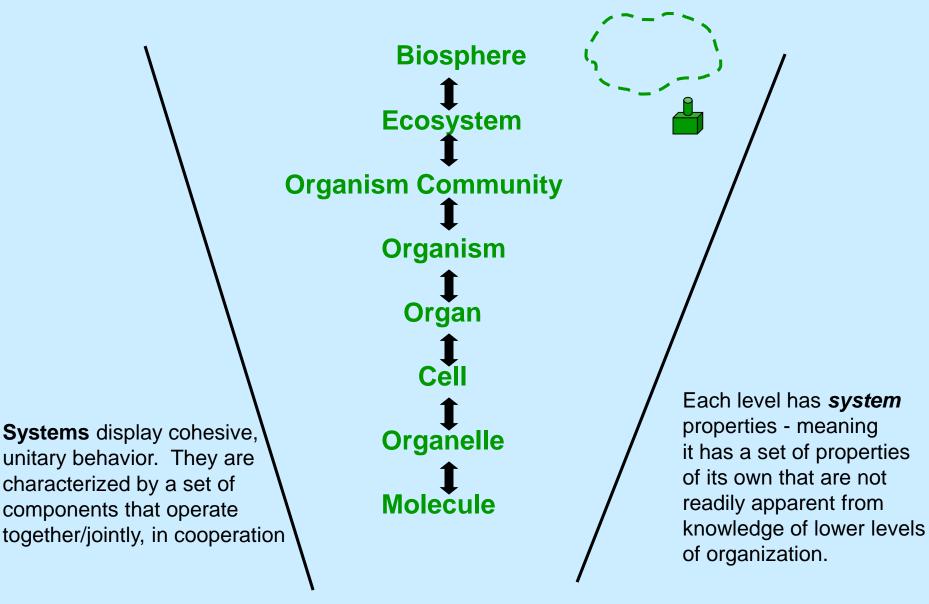


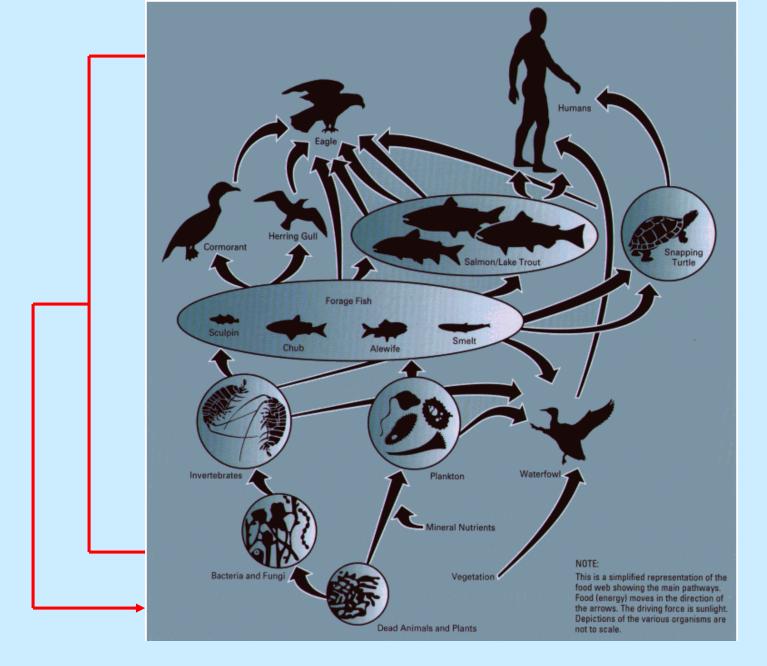
Organisms and the Environment: Evolutionary Implications



Fitness: organism lives successfully within an environmental context.

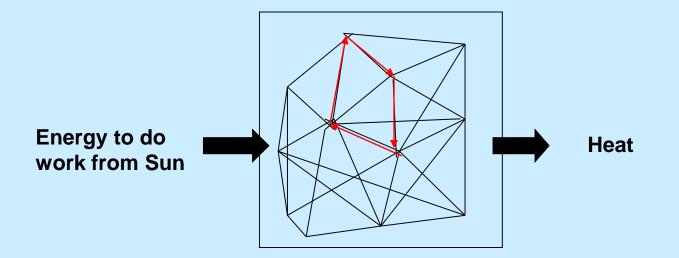
Hierarchical Organization of Life (Systems)





http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/atlas/index.html

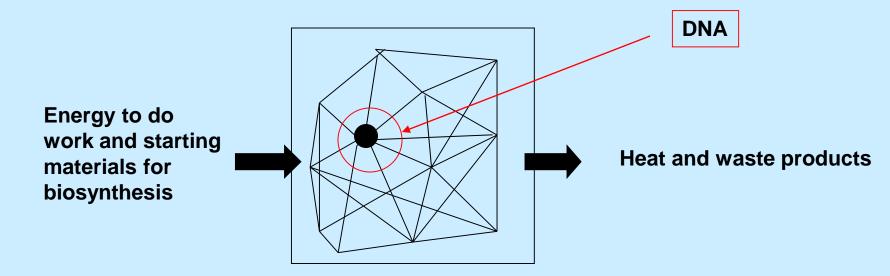
Abstract Model of Native Biosphere



Highly ordered <u>system</u> Based on <u>connections</u> and cycles

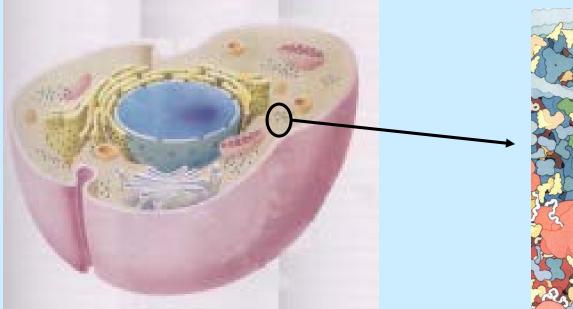
Model emphasizes that everything is connected to everything else. Concept of Fitness

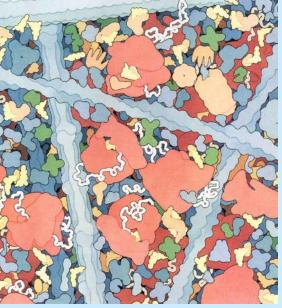
Abstract Model of Cell



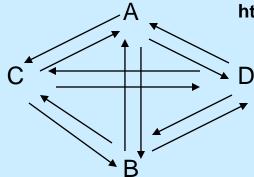
Highly ordered <u>system</u> Based on <u>connections</u> and cycles

The Cell: Lowest Hierachical Level

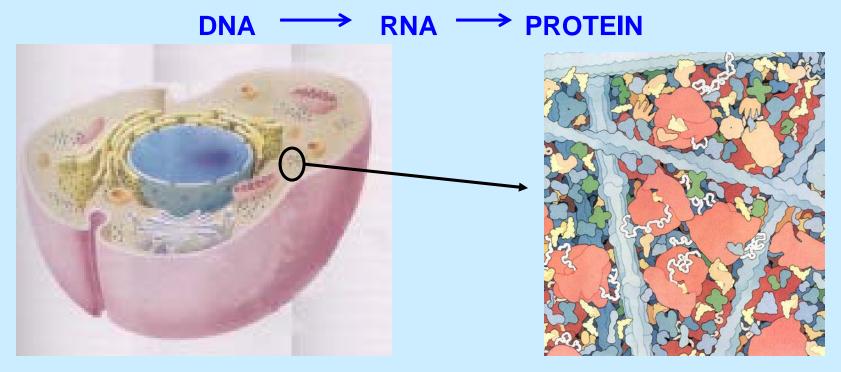




David Goodsell http://mgl.scripps.edu.people/goodsell

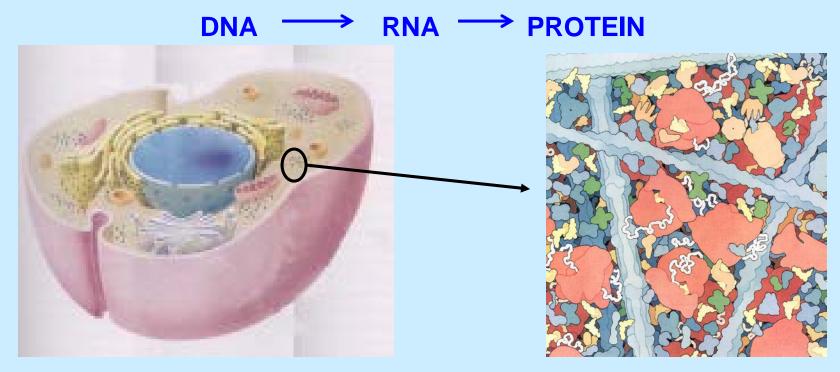


Everything is connected to everything else and is functional within an environmental/ecological context



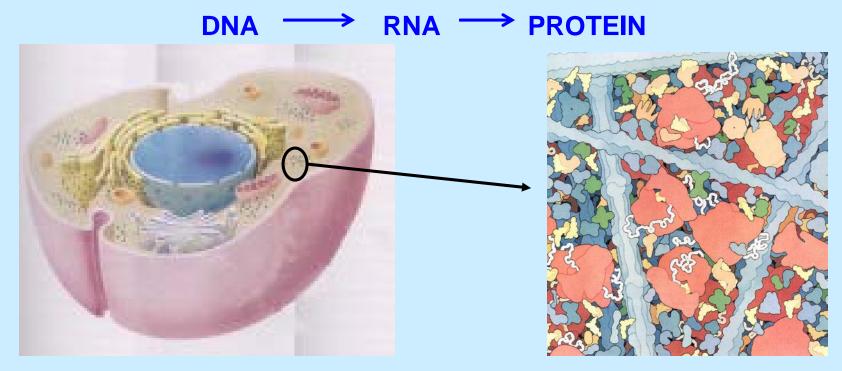
Replication

DNA 🔶 DNA

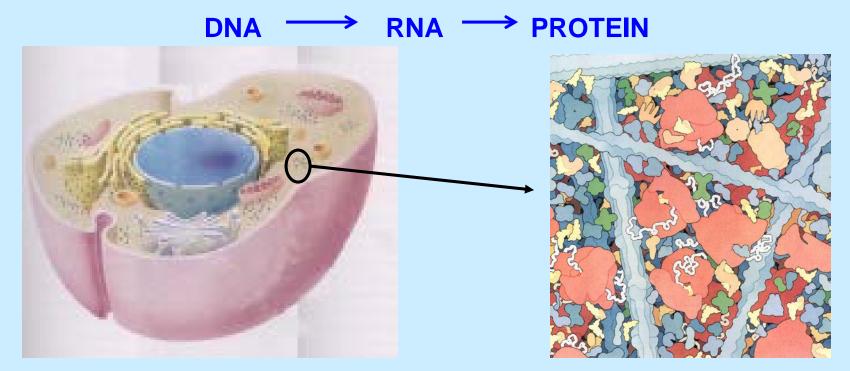


Replication

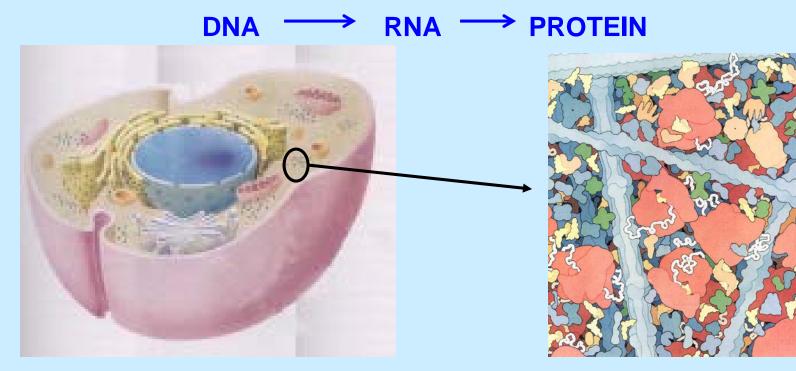
DNA - DNA Errors Repair DNA'(mutation)



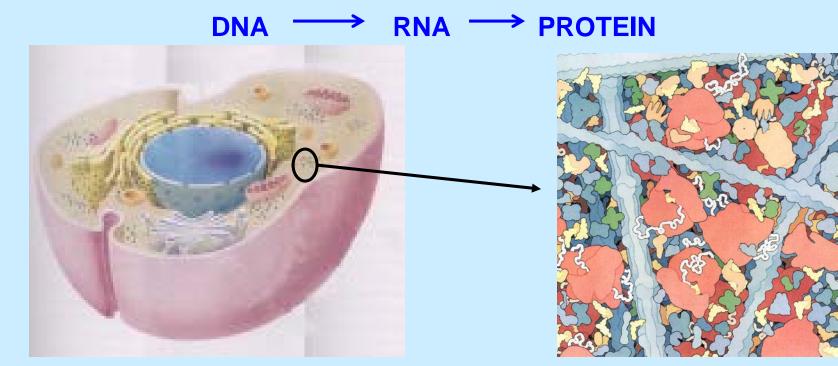
Replication

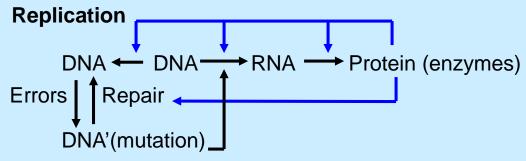


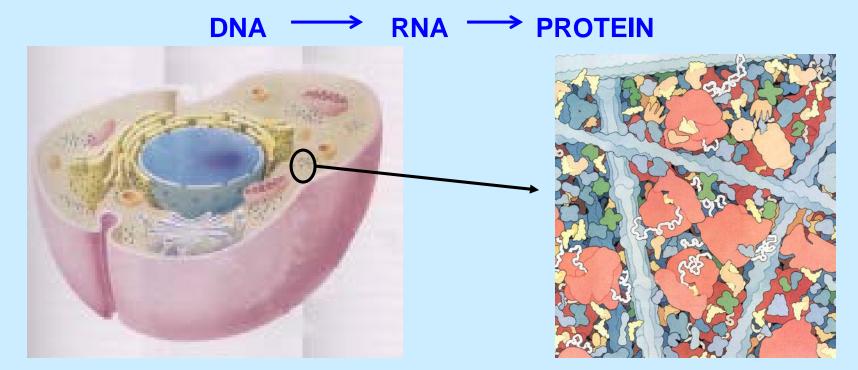
Replication

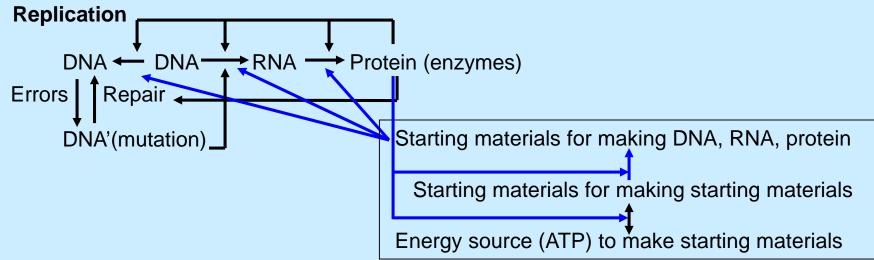


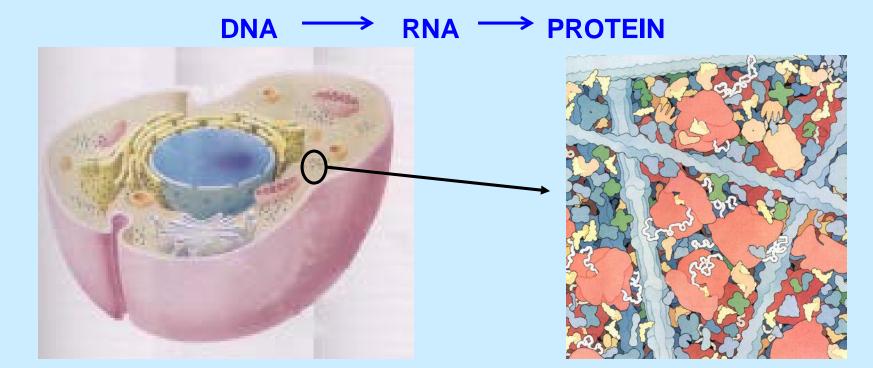
Replication

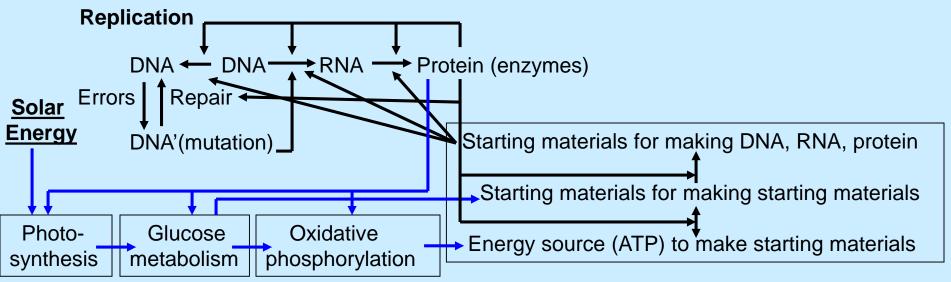


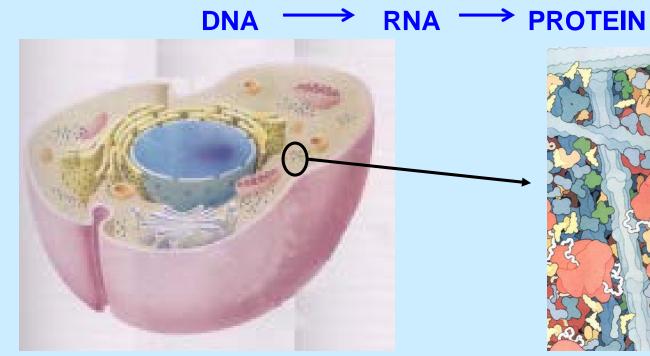


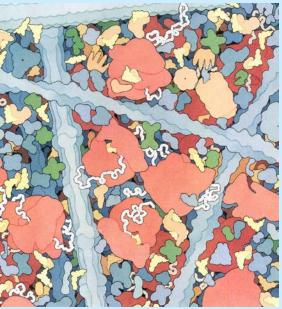


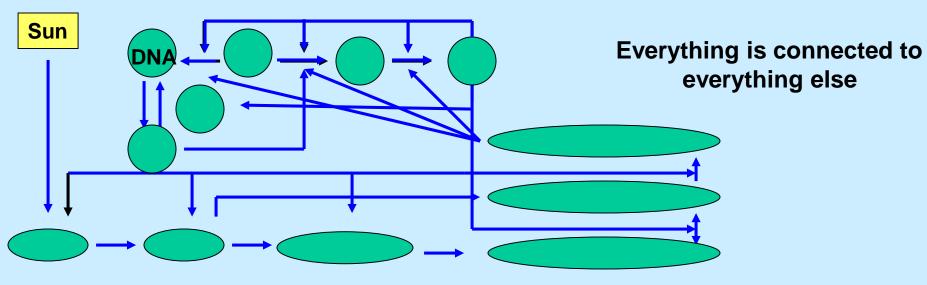












Comments on Everything is Connected to Everything Else

Is cellular identity basically the *information* stored in a molecule? DNA?

DNA ---- mRNA ---- protein ---- cell function

Or is it rooted in "everything is connected to everything else?"

DNA structure: genetic identity

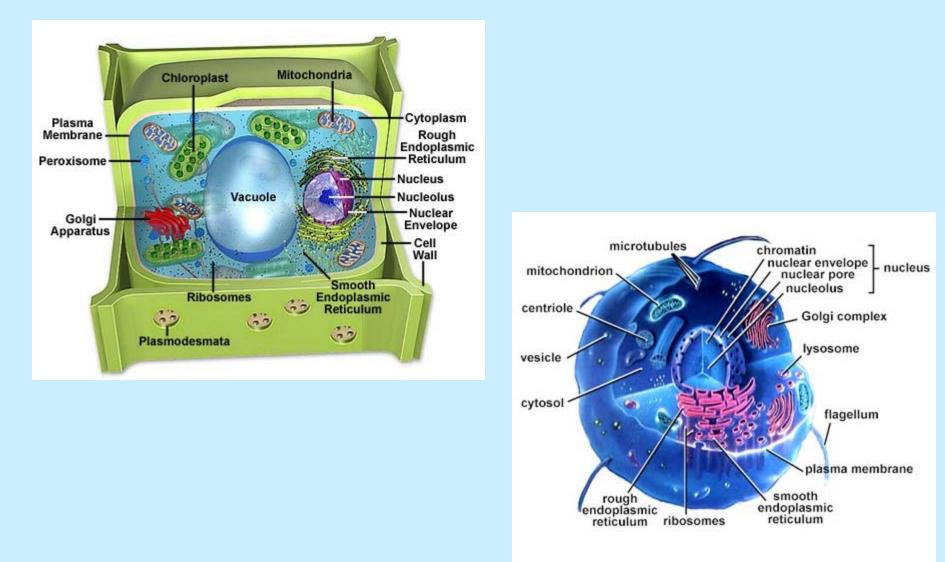
Most general, straightforward way to alter identity is through modifying/mutating DNA structure-base sequence

Expansion to include *epi-genetic* mechanisms that do not alter DNA sequence but modify DNA expression patterns (mRNA and protein)

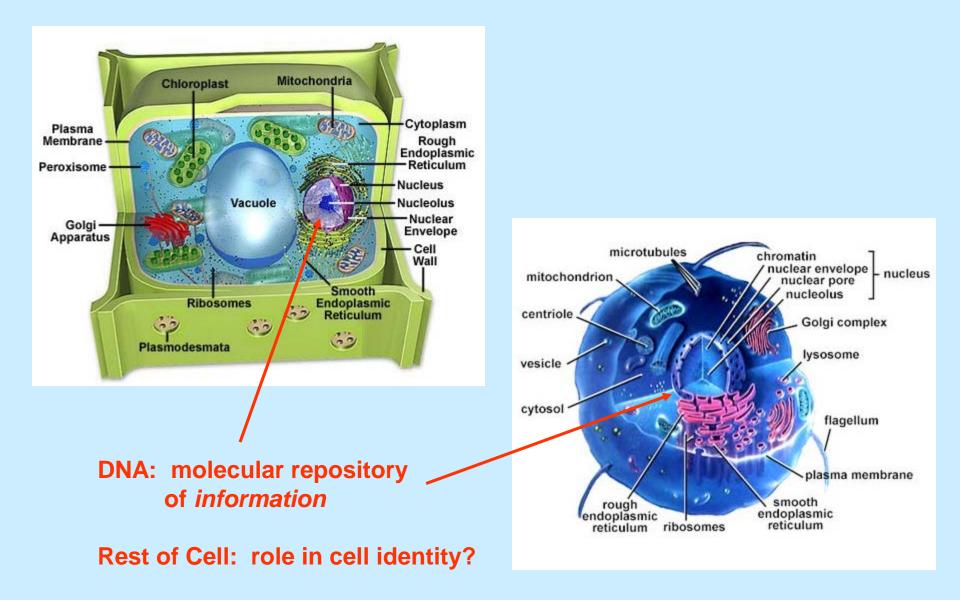
Creating a cell: the Venter synthetic cell (Science, 2010, 329:52-6) -Simple enucleated cell plus insertion of full DNA sequence into closely related enucleated cell*

* Methods that combine (a) DNA polymerase dependent synthesis of DNA sequences with (b) stable means to link them together and express the resultant DNA sequence in yeast.

Cell Identity and its Maintenance: the Venter Experiment



Cell Identity and its Maintenance: the Ventor Experiment

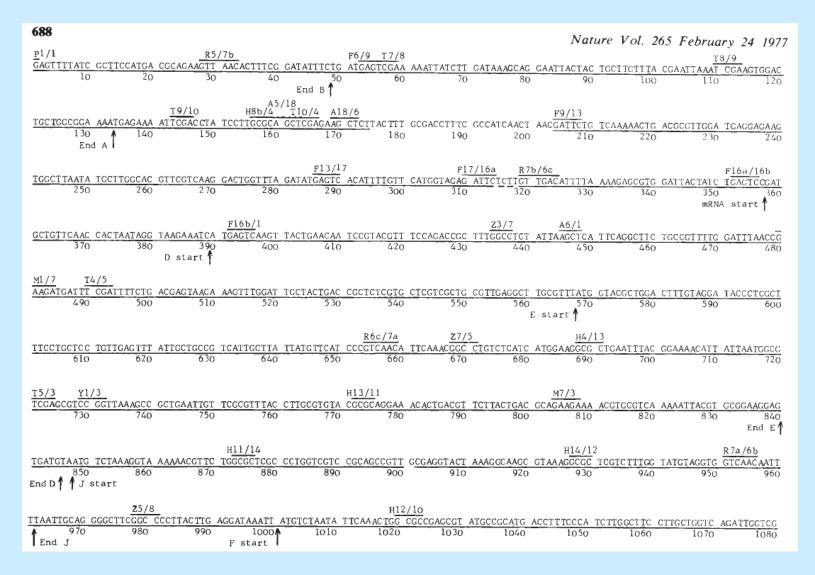


Partial Base Sequence of Phi-X 174 Bactiophage

ODICIN		4		
ORIGIN	<i>C</i> 1		c gettecat	
atgagtogaa	61	aaattatctt	gataaagcag	
cgaagtggac	121	tgctggcgga	aaatgagaaa	attogac
ctcttacttt	181	gcgacctttc	gccatcaact	aacgatt
tgaggagaag	241	tggcttaata	tgettggeae	gttcgtc
acattttgtt	301	catggtagag	attetettgt	tgacatt
tgagtccgat	361	gctgttcaac	cactaatagg	taagaaa
tccgtacgtt	421	tccagaccgc	tttggcctct	attaagc
gatttaaccg	481	aagatgattt	cgattttctg	acgagta
cgctctcgtg	541	ctcgtcgctg	cgttgaggct	tgcgttt
taccctcgct	601	tteetgetee	tgttgagttt	attgetg
cccgtcaaca	661	ttcaaacggc	ctgtctcatc	atggaag
attaatggcg	721	tegagegtee	ggttaaagcc	gctgaat
cgcgcaggaa	781	acactgacgt	tettaetgae	gcagaag
geggaaggag	841	tgatgtaatg	tctaaaggta	aaaaacg
cgcagccgtt	901	gcgaggtact	aaaggcaagc	gtaaagg
gtcaacaatt	961	ttaattgcag	gggettegge	cccttac
ttcaaactgg	1021	cgccgagcgt	atgccgcatg	acctttc
agattggtcg	1081	tcttattacc	atttcaacta	ctccggt
tggacgccgt	1141	tggcgctctc	cgtctttctc	cattgcg
ctgtagacat	1201	ttttactttt	tatgtccctc	atcgtca
agttcatgaa	1261	ggatggtgtt	aatgccactc	ctctccc
ttgaccatgc	1321	cgcttttctt	ggcacgatta	accetga
tgtttcaggg	1381	ttatttgaat	atctataaca	actattt
gtaccgaggc	1441	taaccctaat	gagettaate	aagatga
gccatctcaa	1501	aaacatttgg	actgeteege	ttcctcc
tgacgacttc	1561	taccacatct	attgacatta	tgggtct
atactgacca	1621	agaacgtgat	tacttcatgc	agcgtta
gaggtaaaac	1681	ctcttatgac	gctgacaacc	gtccttt
gggcatctgg	1741	ctatgatgtt	gatggaactg	accaaac
gtgttcaaca	1801	gacctataaa	cattctgtgc	cgcgttt
tgtttactct	1861	tgcgcttgtt	cgttttccgc	ctactgc
acgctaaagg	1921	tgctttgact	tataccgata	ttgetgg
tgccgccgcg	1981	tgaaatttct	atgaaggatg	ttttccg
ttaagattgc	2041	tgagggtcag	tggtatcgtt	atgcgcc
accttcttga	2101	aggettecca	ttcattcagg	aaccgcc
-				-

F. Sanger (1977) 5386 nucleotides total: 11 genes, circular, single stranded

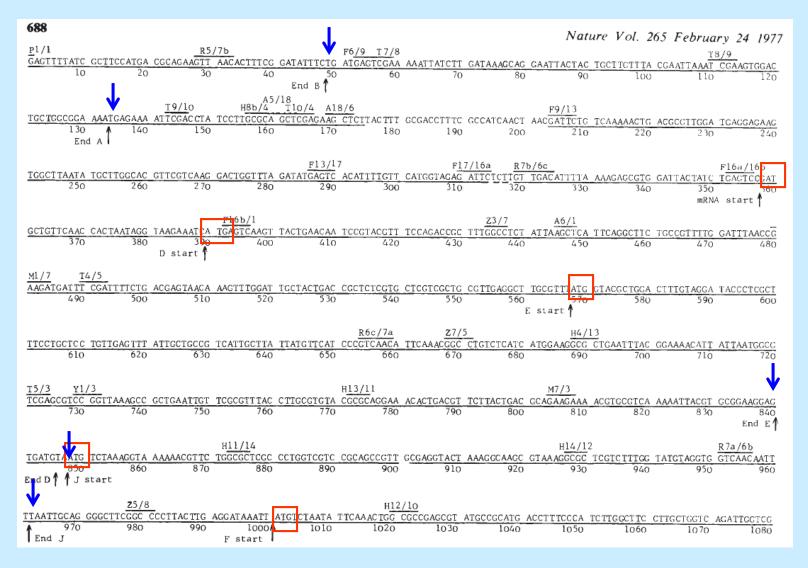
DNA and *Information*



Information is only *Information* if it is understood!

Requirement of donor and acceptor: information exchange

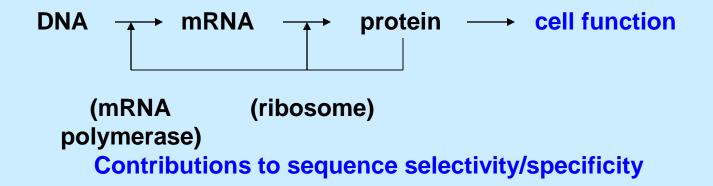
DNA and *Information*



How is it that mRNA synthesis starts only at these sites? What if mRNA synthesis started randomly at other sites? **Comments on Everything is Connected to Everything Else**

Is cellular identity basically the *information* stored in a molecule? DNA?

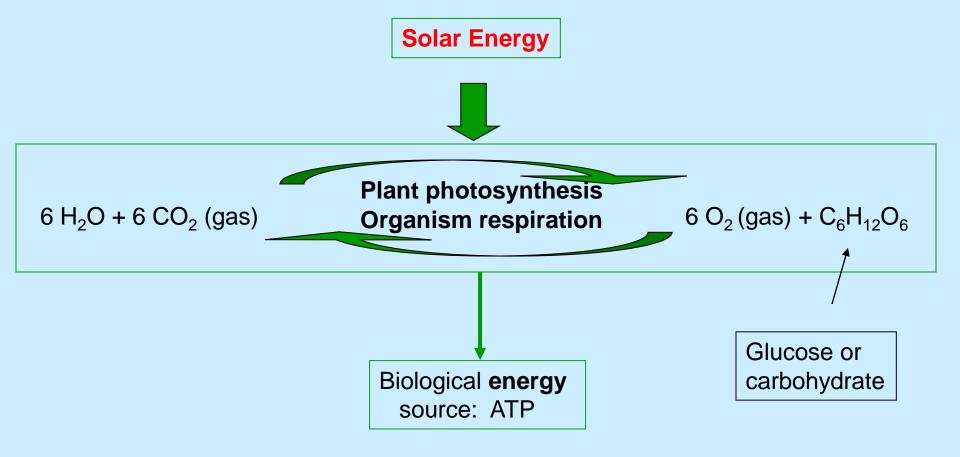
DNA \longrightarrow mRNA \longrightarrow protein \longrightarrow cell function Or is it rooted in "everything is connected to everything else?"



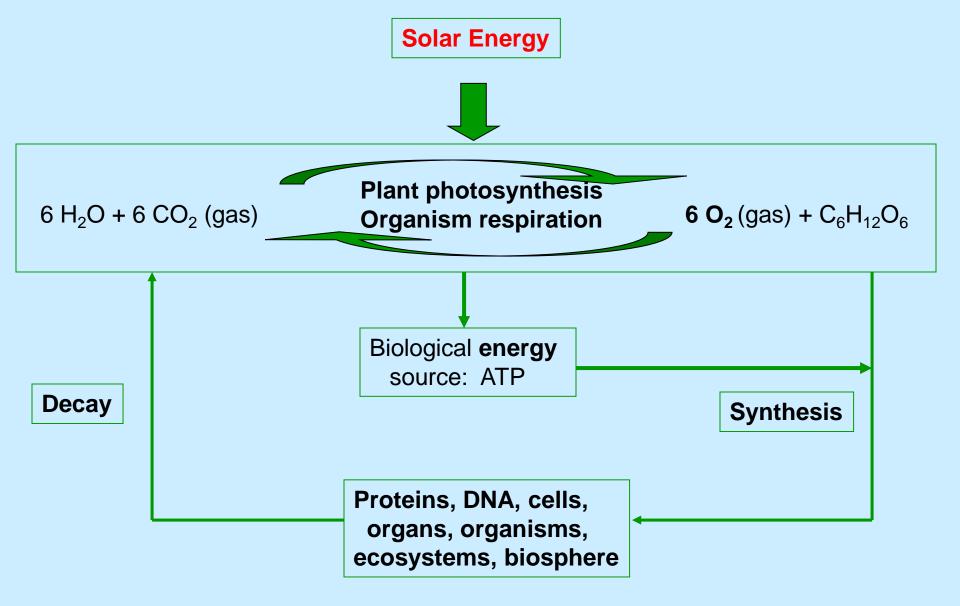
The collaboration of enucleated cell and DNA results in viable cell.

Functional identity results from everything being connected to everything else.

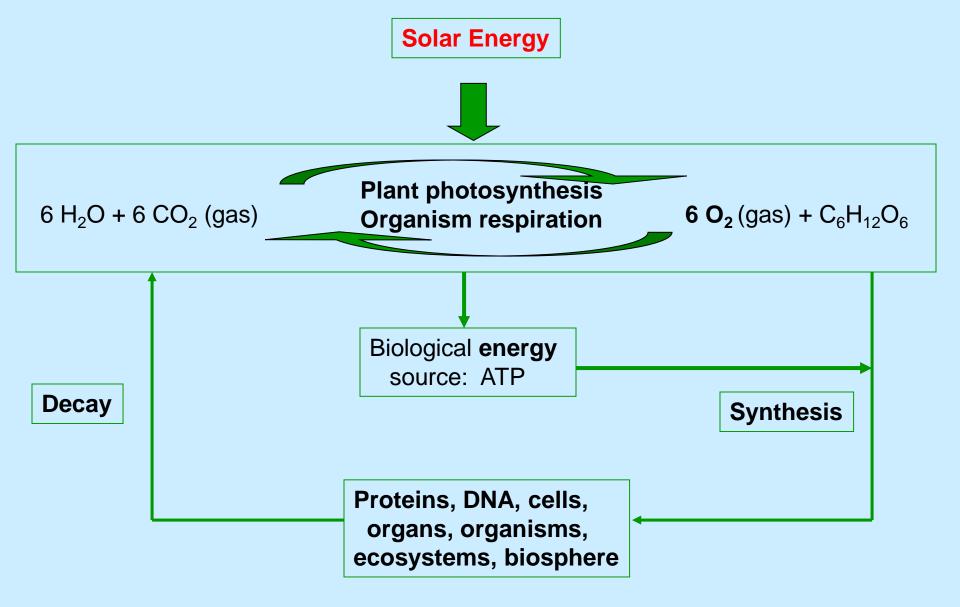
Environmental Adaptation Interconnectedness of Life



Photosynthesis and respiration make most of the living world go around by providing the means to acquire and use energy.



Photosynthesis and respiration make most of the living world go around by providing the sole source of energy to do work (synthesis).



Solar energy is our life line but ...



The sun



The sun Solar UV radiation causes cancer



The sun

Solar UV radiation causes cancer <u>Protective mechanisms</u> Biosphere: ozone layer Skin: epidermis cell sloughing Cells: DNA repair



The sun

Solar UV radiation causes cancer

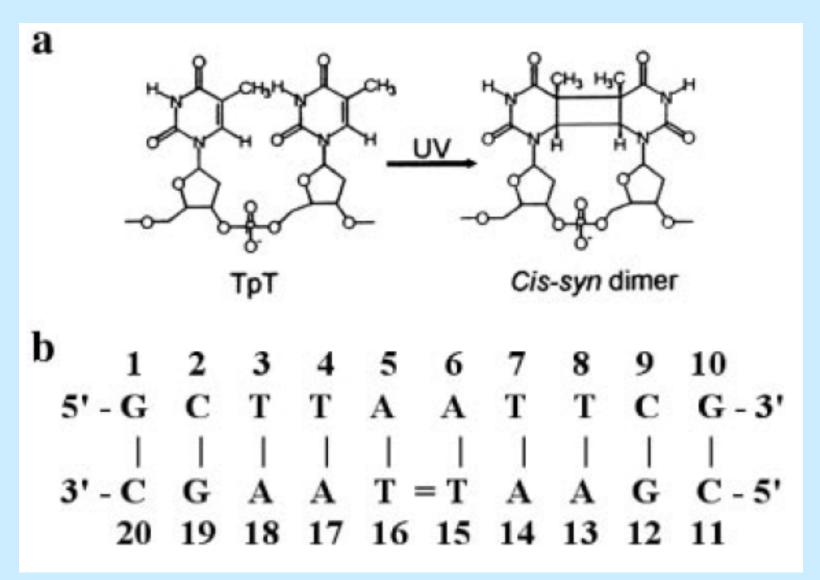
Protective mechanisms

Biosphere:ozone layer – depletion/elevated skin cancerSkin:epidermis cell sloughing of damaged cellsCells:DNA repair of cancerous genotype

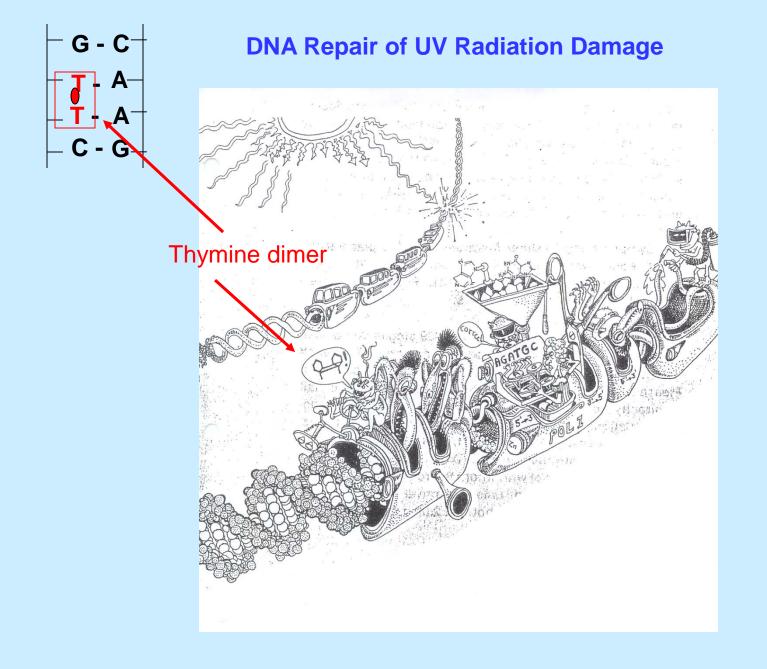
DNA Repair of UV Radiation Damage

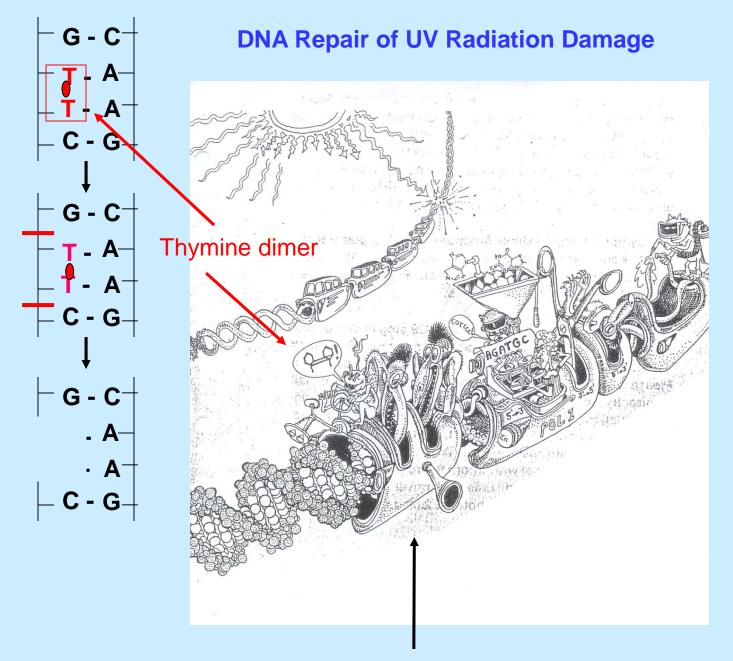


UV Solar radiation damage to DNA



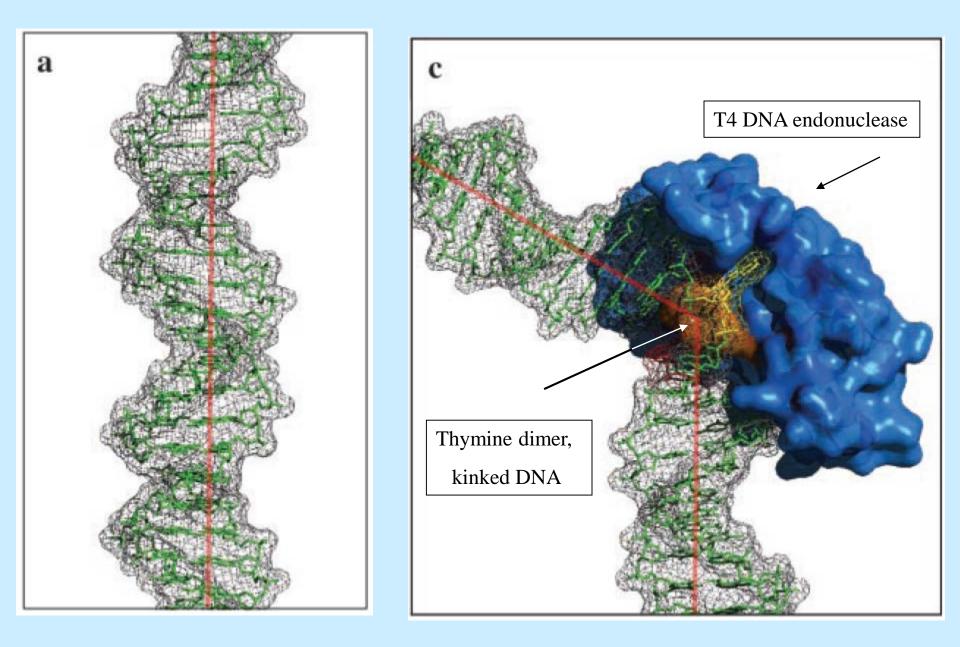
H. Park, et al. Crystal structure of a DNA decamer containing a cis-syn thymine dimer, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 99, 15965 (2002)

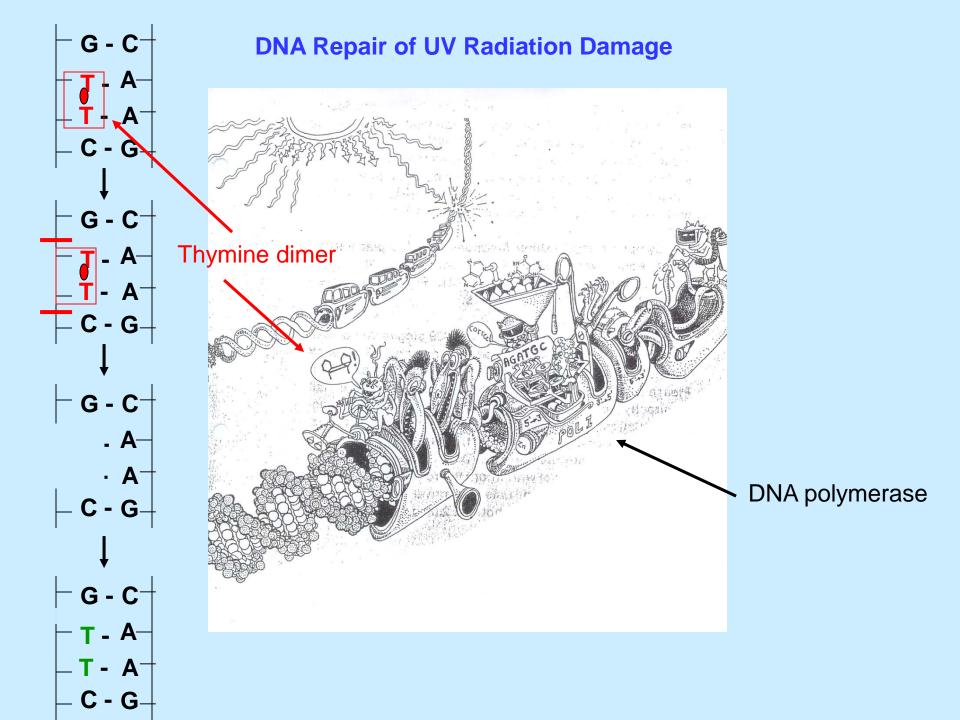


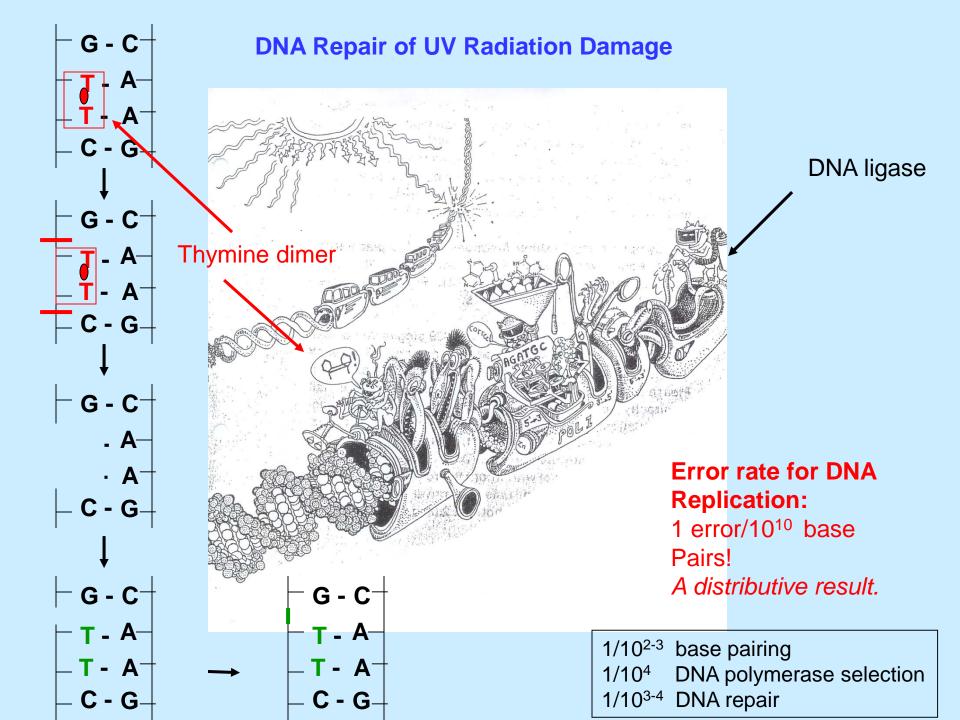


DNA helicase and endonuclease

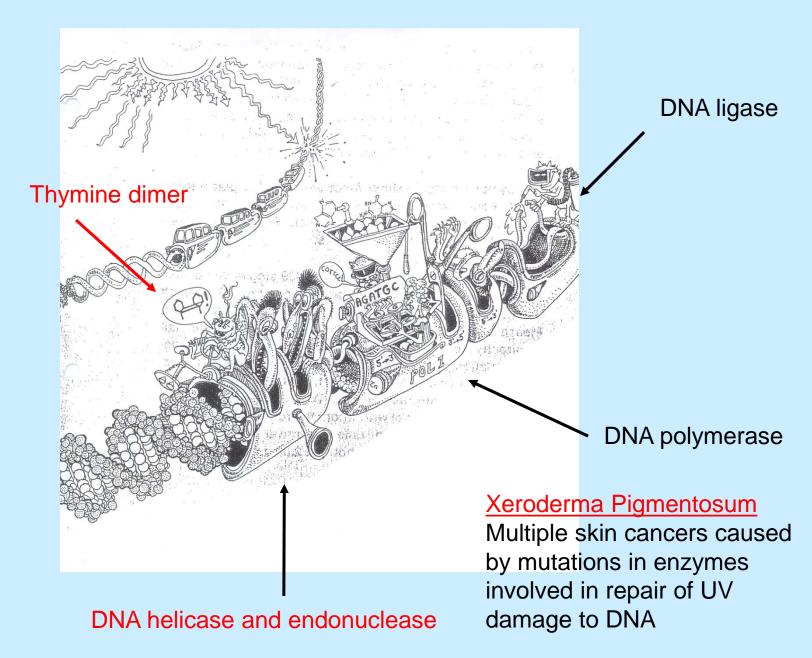
UV Solar radiation damage to DNA



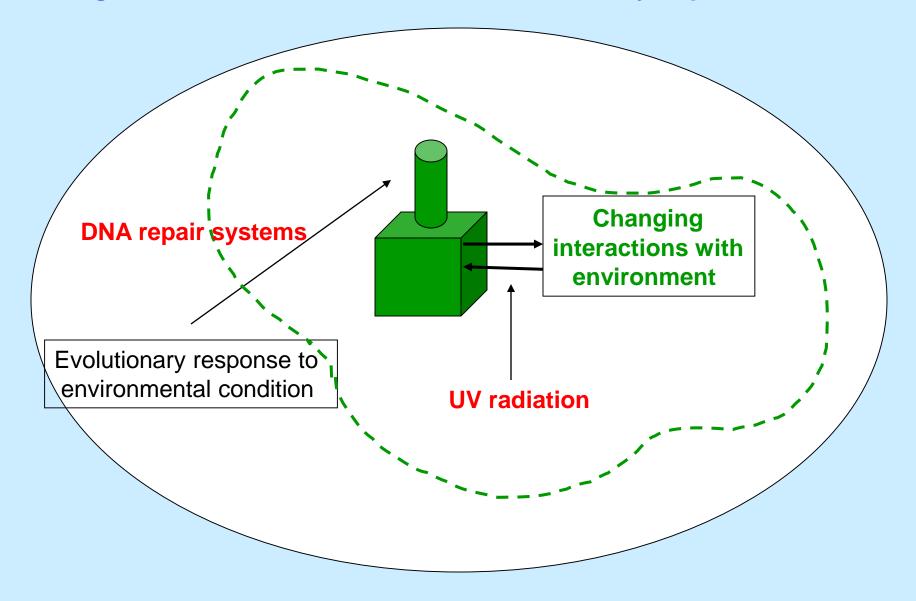




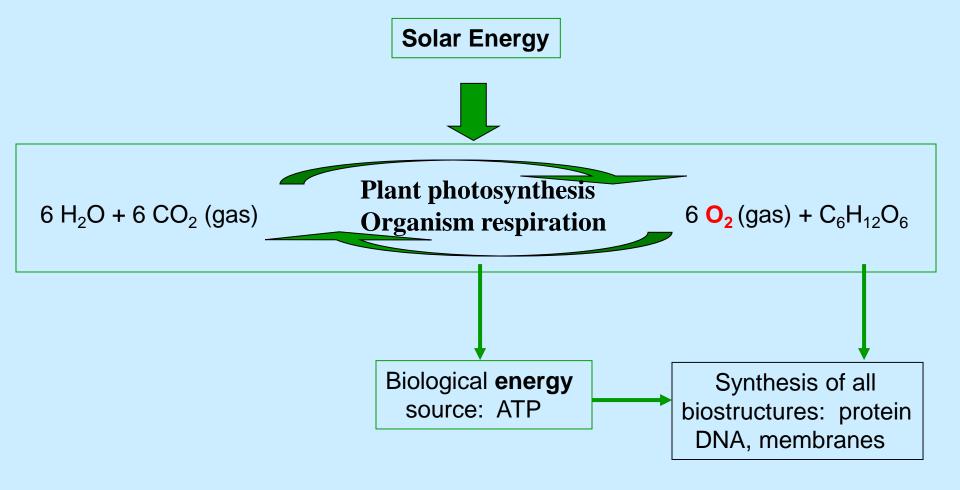
DNA Repair of UV Radiation Damage



Organisms and the Environment: Evolutionary Implications



Fitness: organism lives successfully within an environmental context.



Oxygen is our life line but ...

Organismic Adaptations within the Environment



Fresh air Oxygen!

Organismic Adaptations within the Environment



Fresh air Oxygen! Oxygen is toxic

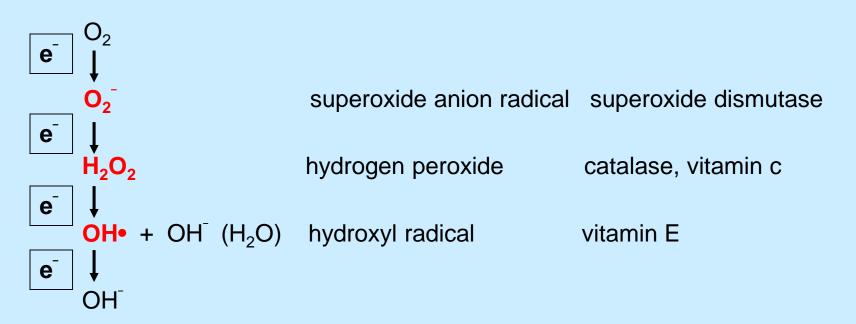
Organismic Adaptations within the Environment



Fresh air Oxygen! Oxygen is toxic

Lung: anti-oxidants Cells: protection against reactive oxygen species DNA repair: 10⁴ -10⁵ G base/cell/day

Reactive Oxygen Species



Our lungs are adapted to an oxygen-containing atmosphere. But ...

Guanine		8-hydroxyguanine
(DNA base)	OH•	(mutation)

DNA Damage from Breathing Oxygen

100,000 8-hydroxyguanine bases excreted/day/cell because of DNA repair of O2 damage

or 10⁵ 8-hydroxyguanine bases excreted/day/cell

Is this meaningful to anyone?

Try this calculation.

How many 8-hydroxyguanine bases are excreted per cell in a lifetime (80 years) and how does that number relate to the total number of guanine bases in your DNA (your chromosomes; your genome)?

Basic equation: two equal proportions–A is to B as C is to D 10^5 8-hydroxyguanine bases excreted/day/cell = X/80 years/cell = X/365 days/cell

Solve for X $X = 10^{5}$ 8-hydroxyguanine bases excreted x 80 years/cell x 365 days = 2.92 x 10⁹ 1 day 1 year 8-hydroxyguanines (units conversion: factor of 1)

 $(10^5 8-OH-G/cell/day) \times (3.65 \times 10^2 days/yr) \times (8 \times 10^1 yr/lifetime)$

There are about 5,000,000,000 bases in the human genome (2.5 x 10^9 base pairs–AT and GC) On the average there are similar amounts of each base in the genome, so there are about **1.2 x 10^9 guanines/genome**.

Compare the number of damaged guanine bases over a lifetime with the total number of guanines in the genome:

2.92 x 10⁹ 8-hydroxyguanines vs. 1.2 x 10⁹ guanines/genome.

One the average every guanine base is damage about 2.5 times over a person's lifetime.

Without repair, damage would lead to mutation and cancer. With repair, we continue to enjoy breathing fresh air.

There are 6 x 10^{23} molecules per mole (1 mole = 1 gram molecular weight). 1 x 10^{19} molecules/6 x 10^{23} molecules/mole = 1.7 x 10^{-5} moles or 17 micromoles

In this case, the gram molecular weight of hydroxy-guanine is 153 grams/mole. So, the weight of 8-hydroxy-guanine that is present in urine each day is about...

 $(1 \times 10^{19} \text{ hydroxyguanine/day/body}) \times (1 \text{ mole/}6\times 10^{23} \text{ molecules}) \times (153 \text{ grams/mole}) = 2.6 \times 10^{-3} \text{ grams} \text{ or } 2.6 \times 10^{-3} \text{ grams} \times 10^{3} \text{ mg/gram} = 2.6 \text{ mg hydroxyguanine excreted}$ per day or 2600 micrograms.

Where/how does the cell get the replacement guanine?

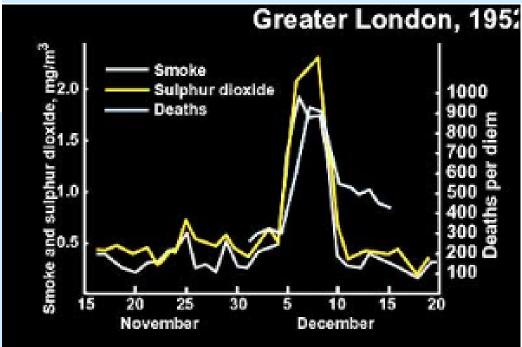
What happens when an air pollution load is imposed on this background? 8-hG excretion increases from 10⁵/cell to 10⁶ - 10⁷/cell

Can repair systems keep up with increased load?

London, England: Weather inversion in 1948



Perhaps as many as 12,000 people died!



http://www.npr.org/programs/atc/features/2002/dec/londonfog/lioygraphic.html

Entrance to Forbidden City in Beijing China on a clear day!



Problem: our lungs are not adapted to this chronic level of air pollution.

Entrance to Forbidden City in Beijing China on a clear day!

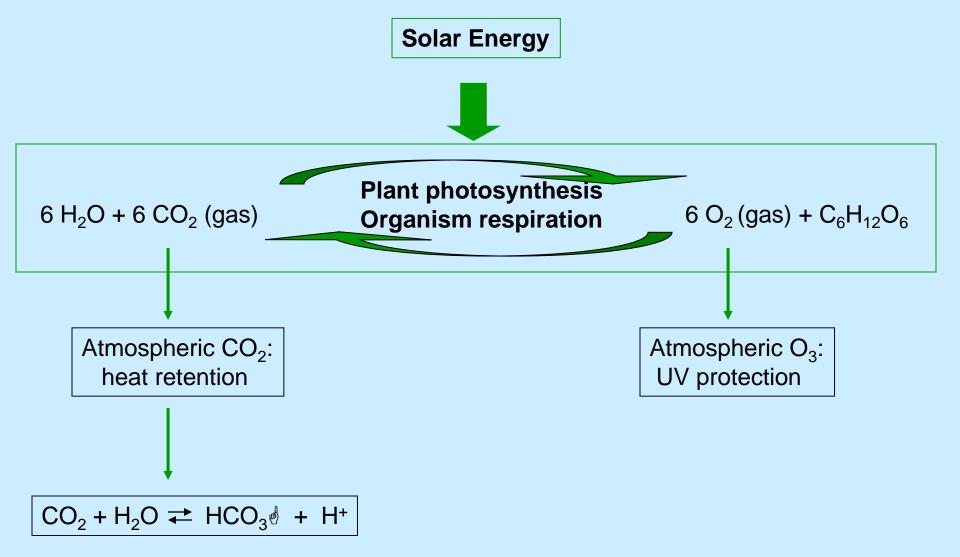


Problem: our lungs are not adapted to this chronic level of air pollution. Short term protective measures (inflammation) cause long term lung injury as side effect of digesting foreign agents in the lung.

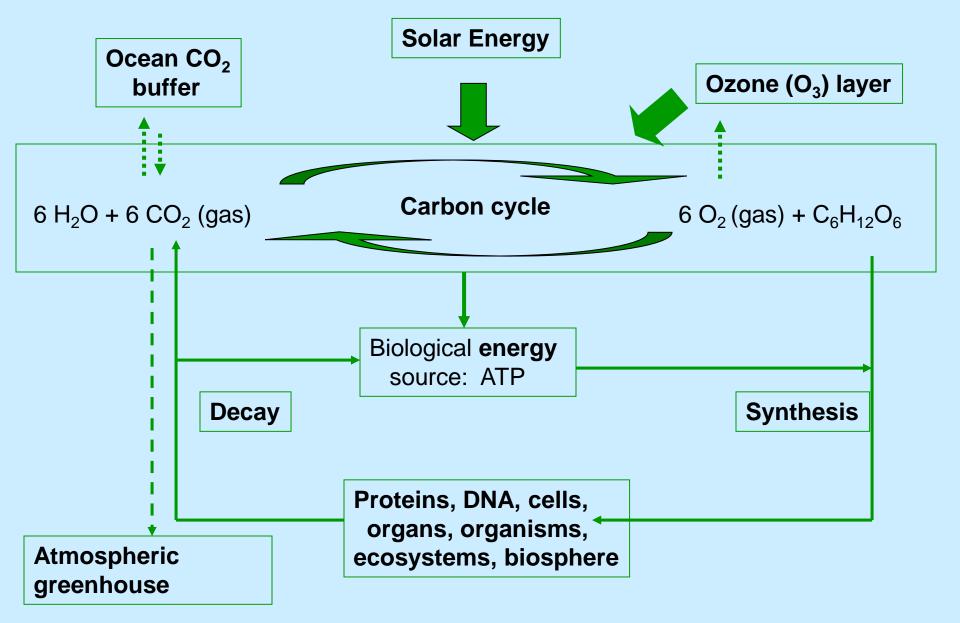
Implications for the environment and human health of the discovery and domestication of fossil hydrocarbons

ENERGY!

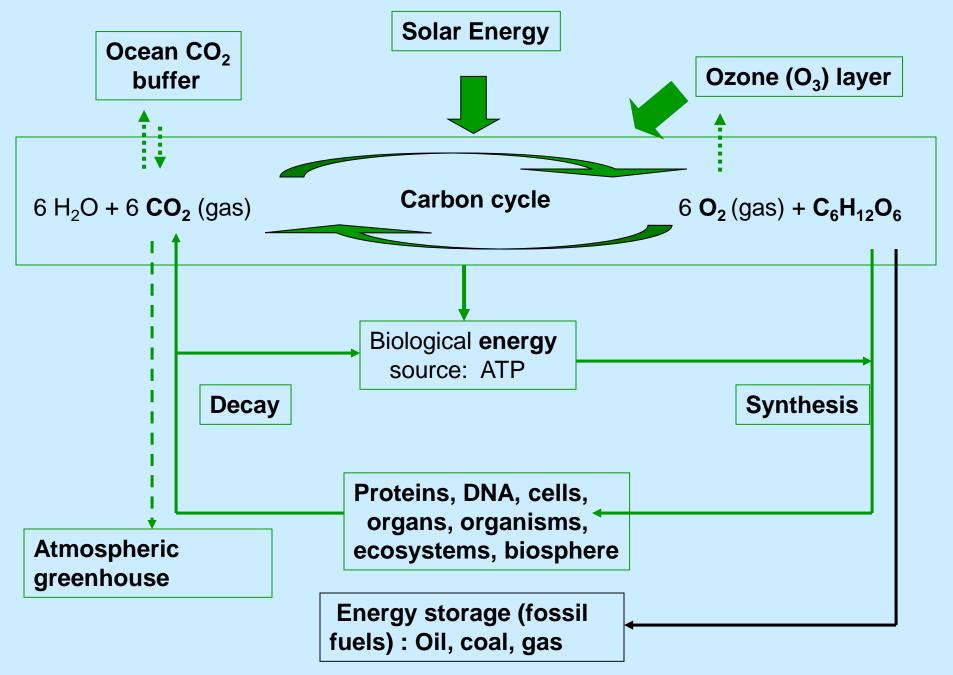
From solar to fossil... and back again?



Photosynthesis and respiration at the biospheric level. Basic environmental protections/constraints



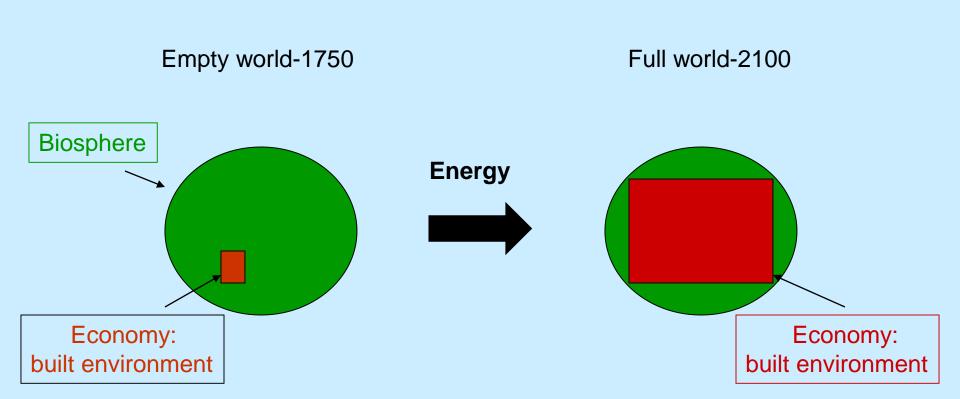
The carbon cycle works in the context of a world that a) has a large ocean to store CO_2 , b) enough atmospheric CO_2 to keep the biosphere warm, and c) O_2 to provide the starting material for carbohydrate oxidation and ozone formation (O_3).



During biological history, solar energy and carbon have been stored.

Human Domination of Earth's Ecosystems

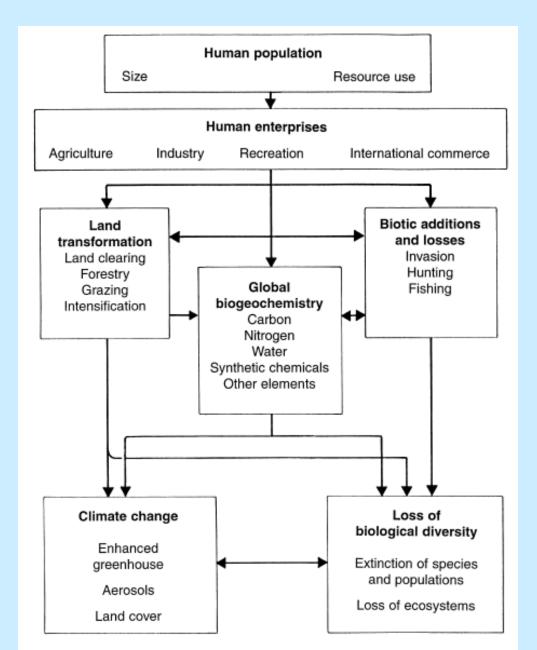
The Issue of Scale



Herman Daly: Beyond Growth, the Economics of Sustainable Development

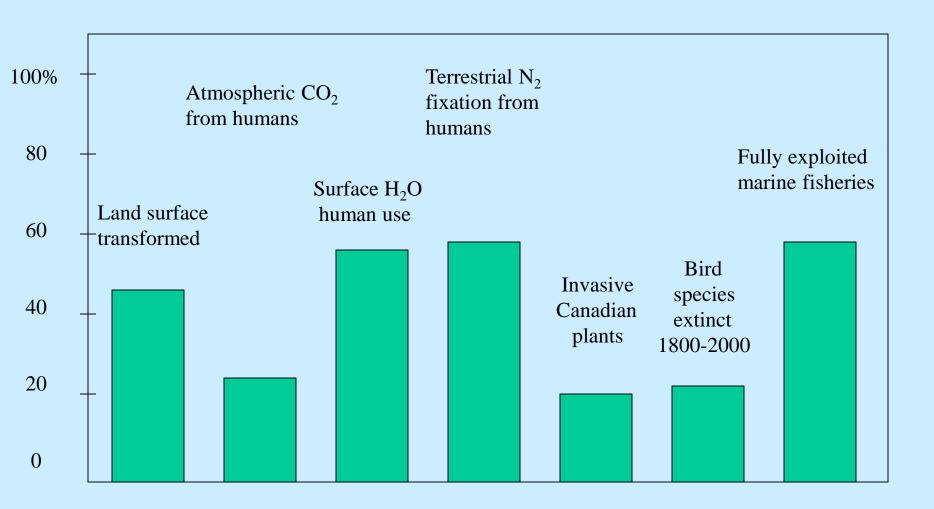
Full World: Human Domination of Earth's Ecosystems

PM Vitousek et al Science, 277, 494 (1997)



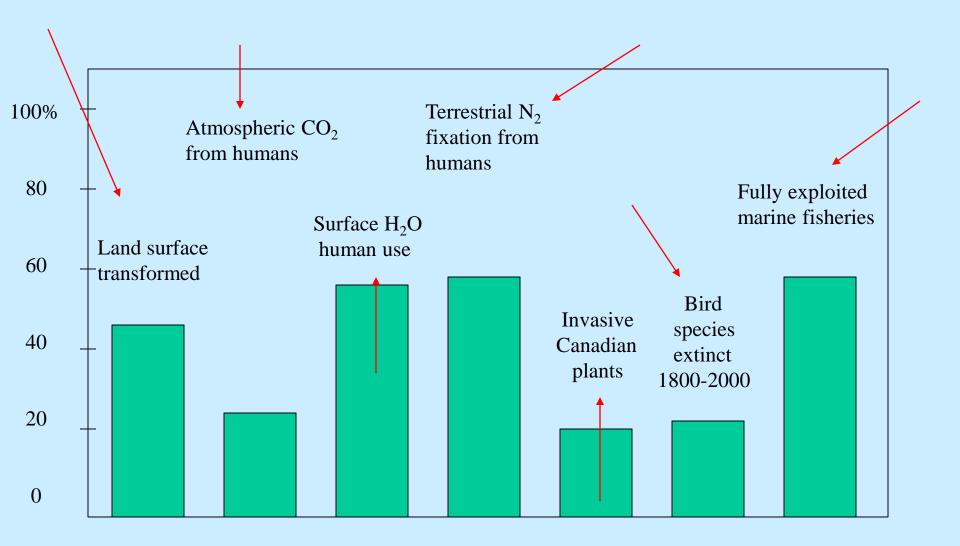
Full World: Human Domination of Earth's Ecosystems

PM Vitousek et al Science, 277, 494 (1997)

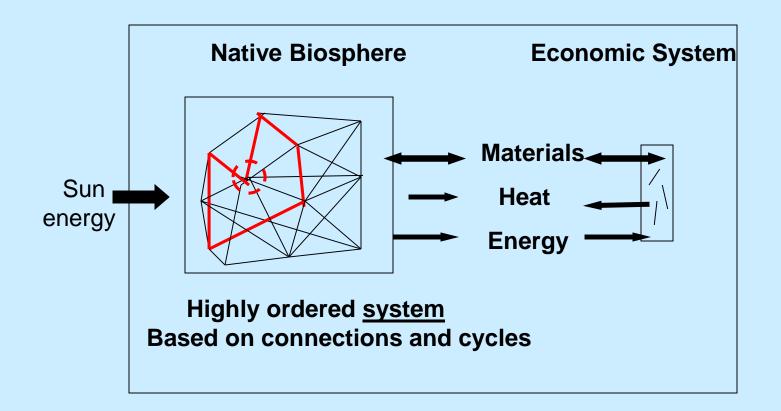


Full World: Human Domination of Earth's Ecosystems

PM Vitousek et al Science, 277, 494 (1997)

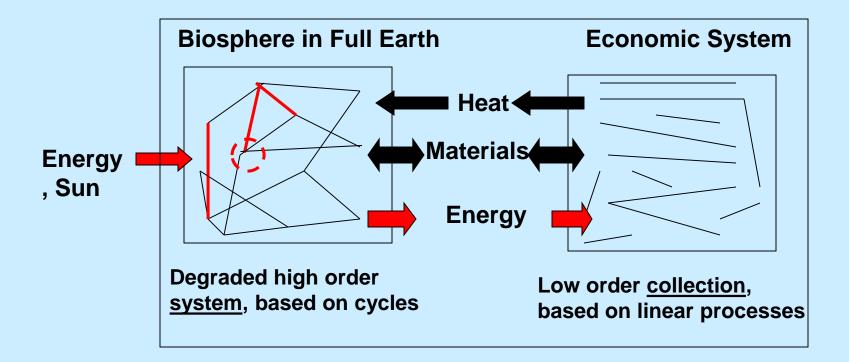


Tragedy of the Commons: Garrett Hardin



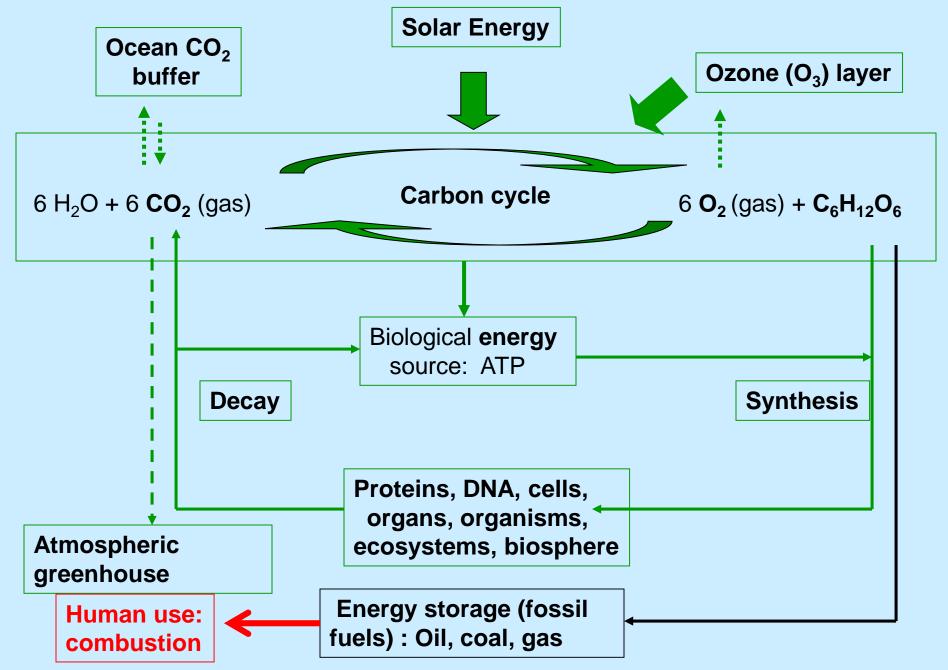
Impact of economic system on ecosystem was small because the economic system was small (Herman Daly)

The Problem of Scale: Full world

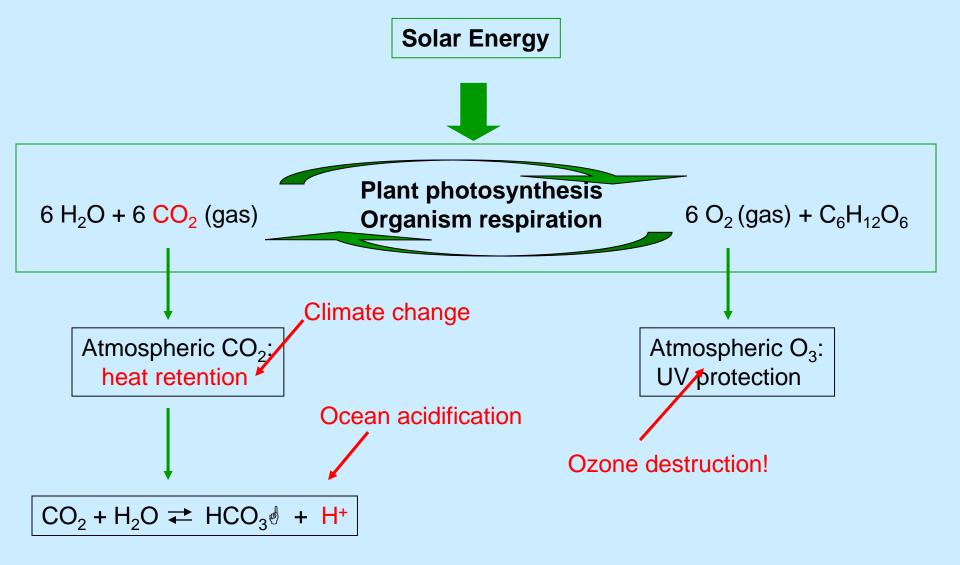


• Economic system is of comparable size to the ecosystem and directly competes with it.

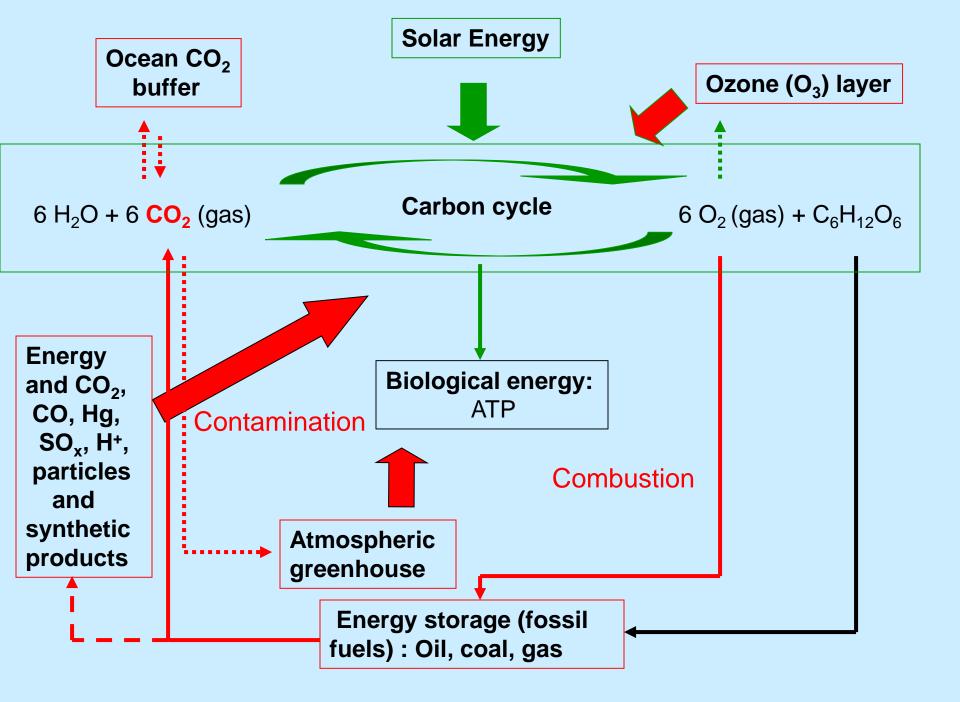
- e.g. Nearly 50% of the primary photosynthetic production of the Earth (energy to support biosphere) is diverted to support human activity.
- Products are made and bi-products are generated that are not parts of cycles (recycling)

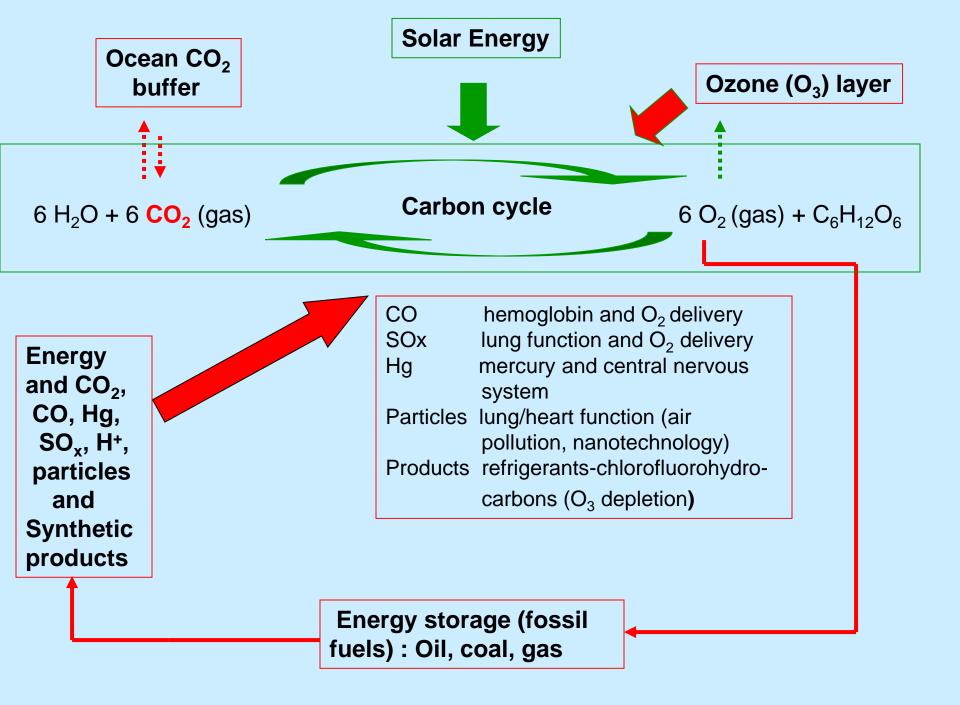


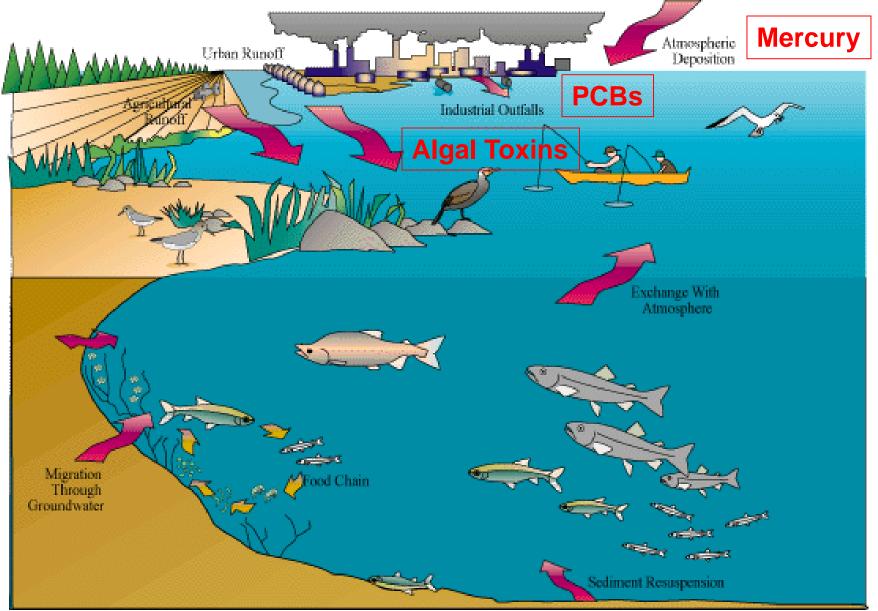
During biological history, solar energy and carbon have been stored.



Photosynthesis and respiration at the biospheric level. Basic environmental protections/constraints

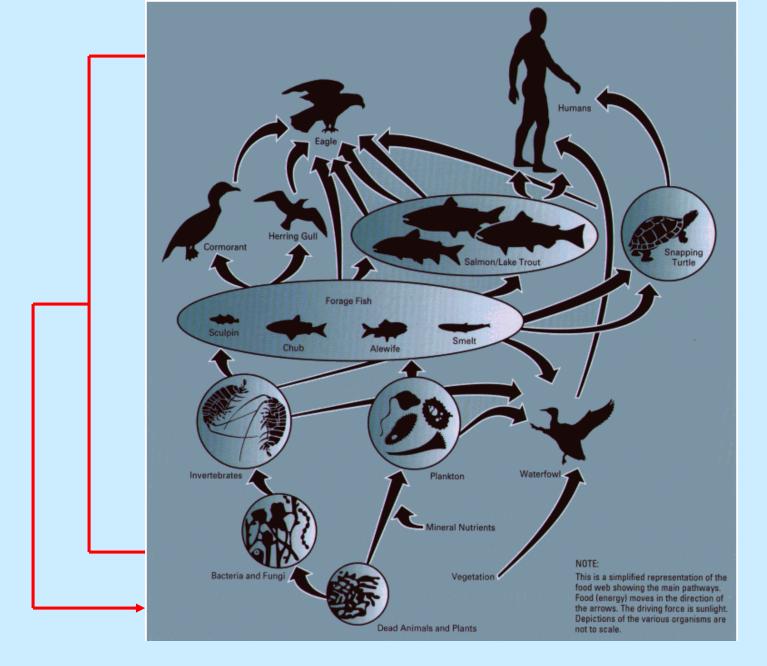






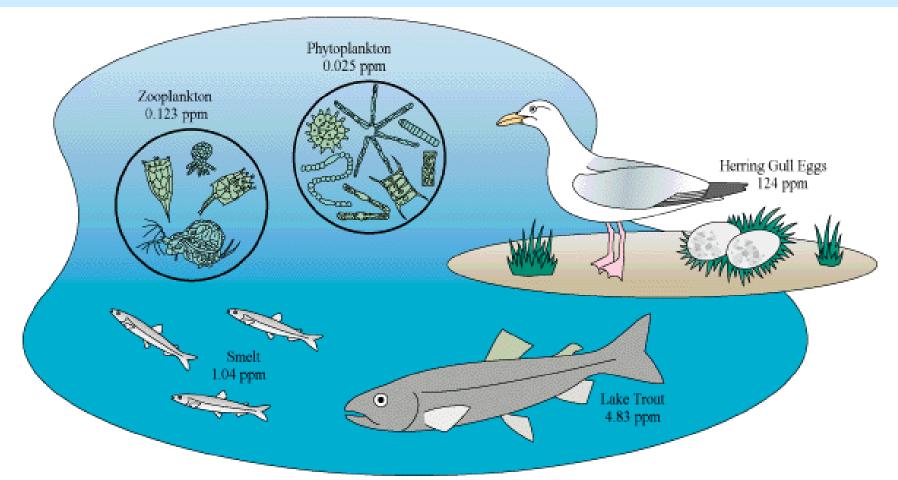
Sources and Pathways of Pollution.

http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/atlas/index.html



http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/atlas/index.html

Food Web Concentration of Organic Chemicals



Persistent Organic Chemicals such as PCBs bioaccumulate. This diagram shows the degree of concentration in each level of the Great Lakes aquatic food chain for PCBs (in parts per million, ppm). The highest levels are reached in the eggs of fish-eating birds such as herring gulls.

http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/atlas/index.html

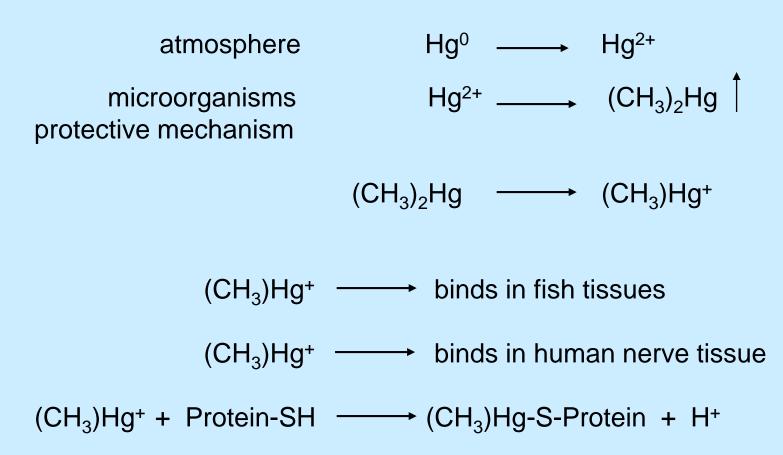
Consequences of Human Dominated Ecosystems

Geologic store of carbon; global burning of fossil fuels; long and short range atmospheric distribution of mercury; concentration in aquatic foodweb because of formation of methylmercury; entrance into the food supply through eating fish.



Fish consumption-Risk communication video

Mercury Metabolism



Note: Drs.Carvan, Weber, and Petering collaborate to understand impacts of $(CH_3)Hg+$ on development: embryonic exposure causes adult deficits in visual response and learning. There is an *epigenetic* component to these outcomes.

Effects of Developmental Exposure to Chemicals on Adult Learning in Zebrafish

Exposure to chemical during first 24 h of development; testing at 8 weeks Learning paradigm: tap middle of tank, drop food item five seconds later on side B and simultaneously observe location of fish (side A or B); wait 20 minutes and repeat the procedure, dropping the item on side A; and continue the alternating pattern.



А	В



Chemic	<u>al</u>	Trials to learn task
Control		14 trials
Lead	10 💻 M	32
	30	never
Alcohol	10 mM	22
	30	27
Methylmercury	0.01 💻 M	never

Daniel Weber and Michael Carvan

Transgenerational Impacts of Methylmercury in Zebrafish

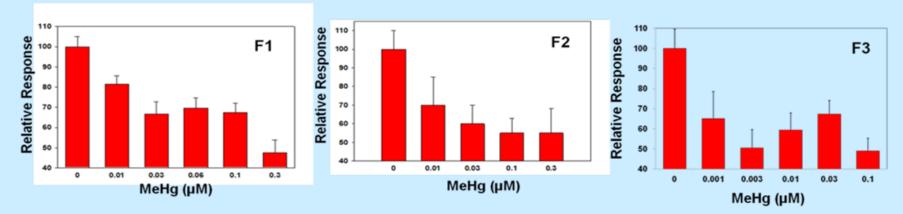
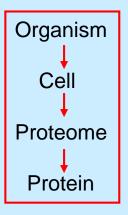
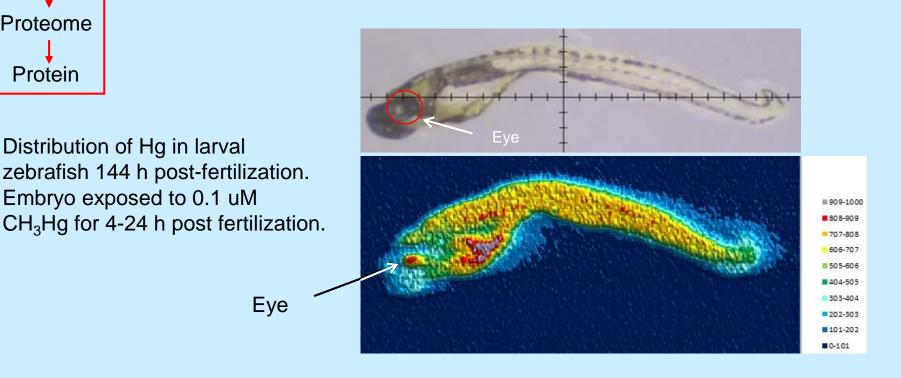


Figure 1: Effects of developmental MeHg exposure on adult visual response to a rotating black bar under low light conditions. F1 = F1 generation fish, which were directly exposed to MeHg during development. F2 = F2 generation fish (the offspring of F1 fish), which were exposed to MeHg as primordial germ cells within the F1 embryos at time of treatment. F3 = F3 generation fish (the offspring of F2), which were never exposed to MeHg. The vertical bar represents the number of responses relative to the control population. All treatment groups are significantly different than the respective controls at P<0.05. The number of zebrafish analyzed was \geq 8 per treatment group.



Distribution of Hg in larval

LA-ICP-MS **Linking Macro- and Microscopic Measurements**



Embryonic $CH_3Hg^+ \longrightarrow$ Inhibition of visual startle response — → abnormal retinal bipolar cell electrophysiology \longrightarrow molecular targets?

Eye (laser capture microdissection) \longrightarrow proteome preparation proteome separation —>LA-ICP-MS



Methylmercury Poisoning

Dr. Karen Wetterhahn died 10 months after spilling a drop of dimethylmercury on a 'protective' glove. She died of acute neurological (CNS) toxicity. (http://www.chm.bris.ac.uk/motm/dimethylmercury/dmmh.htm)

Exposure to 1 drop of dimethylmercury that was wiped off a glove: how many grams of mercury would remain?

2.96 g/milliliter (ml) x 0.05ml x 0.2 = 0.0296 g total exposure to dimethylmercury (Density) (Exposure: one drop (0.05 ml), wiped off with perhaps 20% (0.2) remaining ~ 0.03 g

<u>0.03 g</u> dimethylmercury x 200 g mercury/230 g dimethylmercury = <u>0.026 g mercury</u> (Atomic weight of mercury/molecular weight of dimethylmercury) Suppose this amount of mercury were diluted evenly into the entire body weight of Karen Wetterhahn. What would be the final concentration?

0.026 g/140 lbs x 2.2 lbs/kilogram = (mercury weight (conversion factor) divided by body weight)

0.00041 g mercury/kg body weight (4.1 x 10G⁴) (0.41 mg/kg body weight)

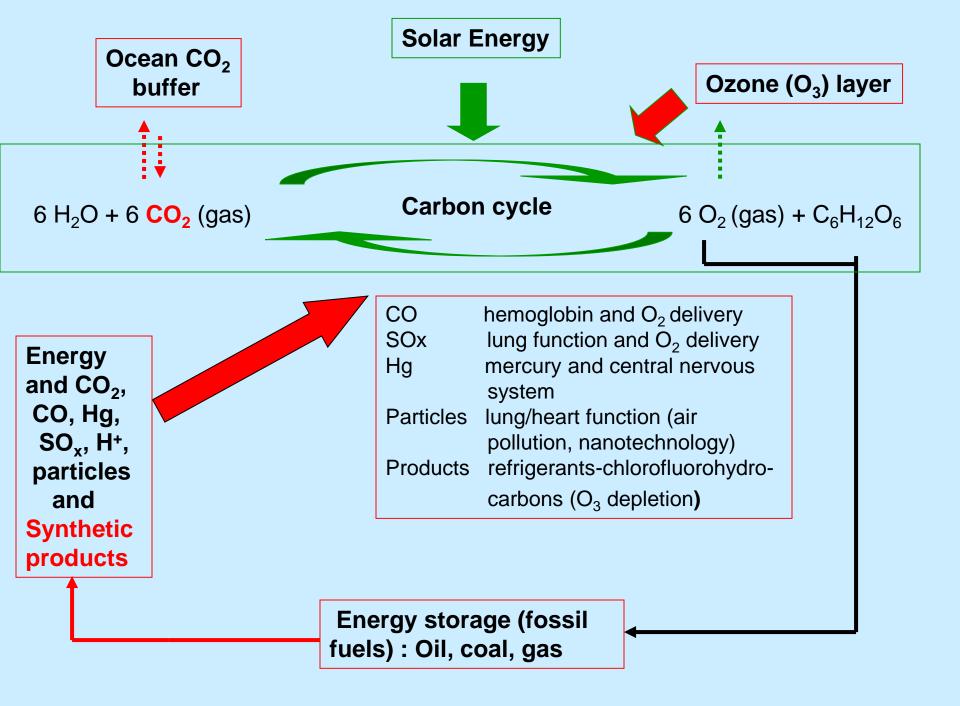
0.00041 g mercury/kg body weight x 1 kg/1000 g = 0.00000041 g mercury/g body weight

(conversion factor)

0.00000041 g mercury/g body weight x 1,000,000 micrograms/g = <u>0.41 microgram</u> (conversion factor) <u>mercury/g body weight</u> 0.41 ppm (parts per million)

This is 8 times the maximum permissible limit in blood. In fact, Dr. Wetterhahn's actual blood level was 80 times the maximum level, showing that the toxic mercury had concentrated in some parts of the body, probably including the central nervous system of the brain.

Dr. Wetterhahn's gloves did not protect her against dimethylmercury.



Chemical/Synthetic Society

Urban Rural Occupational			
Food	industry-synthetic food, additives, preservatives, antibiotics, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers		
Clothing	synthetics, petrochemicals		
Shelter	plastics, synthetic materials, paint, treated wood		
Transportation	petrochemicals, batteries		
Lifestyle	cosmetics,		
Transition: natural to synthetic			

TRI-POWER[®] SELECTIVE

HERBICIDE

FOR SELECTIVE BROADLEAF WEED CONTROL IN ORNAMENTAL LAWNS AND TURF GRASSES

ALSO FOR WOODY PLANTS, ROADSIDES, AND SIMILAR NON-CROP AREAS.

CONTROLS: Dandelion, Chickweed, Black medic, Knotweed, Plantain, Oxalis, Clover, Cocklebur, Thistle and many other species of broadleaf weeds; some of which are listed on this label.

CONTAINS MCPA, MECOPROP-p AND DICAMBA

GET THE OPTICAL ADVANTAGE™

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS:	
Dimethylamine Salt of 2-Methyl-	
4-Chlorophenoxyacetic Acid*	40.42%
Dimethylamine Salt of (+)-R-2-(2-Methyl- 4-Chlorophenoxy)propionic Acid**	7.000/
Dimethylamine Salt of Dicamba	
(3,6-Dichloro-o-Anisic Acid)***	3.97%
INERT INGREDIENTS:	47.62%
TOTAL	100.00%
By Isomer Specific AOAC Method, Equivalent to:	
*2-Methyl-4-Chlorophenoxyacetic Acid	33.00%, 3.1 lbs./gal.
**(+)-R-2-(2-Methyl-4-Chlorophenoxy)propionic Acid	. 6.60%, 0.6 lbs./gal.
***3,6-Dichloro-o-Anisic Acid	. 3.30%, 0.3 lbs./gal.

For Control of Woody Plants: Apply to both stems and foliage any time from the time foliage is completely matured until the time plants start to go dormant. All leaves, stems and suckers must be completely wet to the ground line for effective control. Regrowth may be anticipated on the more resistant species. Add $\frac{2}{3}$ gallons of Tri-Power to 100 gallons of water applying 200 to 600 gallons of spray mixture per 43,500 square feet depending upon the height and thickness of the brush. Mix thoroughly before spraying.

TRI-POWER[®] SELECTIVE

HERBICIDE

FOR SELECTIVE BROADLEAF WEED CONTROL IN ORNAMENTAL LAWNS AND TURF GRASSES

ALSO FOR WOODY PLANTS, ROADSIDES, AND SIMILAR NON-CROP AREAS.

CONTROLS: Dandelion, Chickweed, Black medic, Knotweed, Plantain, Oxalis, Clover, Cocklebur, Thistle and many other species of broadleaf weeds; some of which are listed on this label.

CONTAINS MCPA, MECOPROP-p AND DICAMBA

GET THE OPTICAL ADVANTAGE™

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS: Dimethylamine Salt of 2-Methyl-
4-Chlorophenoxyacetic Acid*
Dimethylamine Salt of (+)-R-2-(2-Methyl- 4-Chlorophenoxy)propionic Acid**
Dimethylamine Salt of Dicamba
(3,6-Dichloro-o-Anisic Acid)***
INERT INGREDIENTS:
TOTAL
By Isomer Specific AOAC Method, Equivalent to:
*2-Methyl-4-Chlorophenoxyacetic Acid
**(+)-R-2-(2-Methyl-4-Chlorophenoxy)propionic Acid 6.60%, 0.6 lbs./gal.
***3,6-Dichloro-o-Anisic Acid

For Control of Woody Plants: Apply to both stems and foliage any time from the time foliage is completely matured until the time plants start to go dormant. All leaves, stems and suckers must be completely wet to the ground line for effective control. Regrowth may be anticipated on the more resistant species. Add ²/₃ gallons of Tri-Power to 100 gallons of water applying 200 to 600 gallons of spray mixture per 43,500 square feet depending upon the height and thickness of the brush. Mix thoroughly before spraying.

Mixture

Toxicity (LD50)

	Small Animals	Actual pesticide weight for 100 g animal			
Aldicarb	1-10 mg/kg	0.1-1 mg	- 2	0.0001-0.001 g -	- 0.0000035 - 0.000035 oz
MCPA Mecoprop Dicamba Roundup	700 mg/kg 1000 mg/kg 2000 mg/kg 5000 mg/kg	70 mg 100 mg 200 mg 500 mg	-	0.07 g 0.1 g 0.2 g 0.5 g	 0.0024 oz 0.0035 oz 0.007 oz 0.018 oz
Aldicarb MCPA Mecoprop Dicamba Roundup	Actual weight for 30 kg hu 30-300 mg 21,000 mg (21 g) 30,000 mg (30 g) 60,000 mg (60 g) 150,000 mg (150 g ~ 0.3 lbs			mg mg) g bird

TRI-POWER[®] SELECTIVE

HERBICIDE

FOR SELECTIVE BROADLEAF WEED CONTROL IN ORNAMENTAL LAWNS AND TURF GRASSES

ALSO FOR WOODY PLANTS, ROADSIDES, AND SIMILAR NON-CROP AREAS.

CONTROLS: Dandelion, Chickweed, Black medic, Knotweed, Plantain, Oxalis, Clover, Cocklebur, Thistle and many other species of broadleaf weeds; some of which are listed on this label.

CONTAINS MCPA, MECOPROP-p AND DICAMBA

GET THE OPTICAL ADVANTAGE™

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS: Dimethylamine Salt of 2-Methyl-	
4-Chlorophenoxyacetic Acid*	!%
Dimethylamine Salt of (+)-R-2-(2-Methyl- 4-Chlorophenoxy)propionic Acid**	%
Dimethylamine Salt of Dicamba	
(3,6-Dichloro-o-Anisic Acid)***	%
INERT INGREDIENTS: 47.62	!%
TOTAL)%
By Isomer Specific AOAC Method, Equivalent to:	
*2-Methyl-4-Chlorophenoxyacetic Acid	a1.
**(+)-R-2-(2-Methyl-4-Chlorophenoxy)propionic Acid 6.60%, 0.6 lbs./ga	a1.
***3,6-Dichloro-o-Anisic Acid	a1.

2/3 gal Tri-power/ 100 gal water

For Control of Woody Plants: Apply to both stems and foliage any time from the time foliage is completely matured until the time plants start to go dormant. All leaves, stems and suckers must be completely wet to the ground line for effective control. Regrowth may be anticipated on the more resistant species. Add $\frac{2}{3}$ gallons of Tri-Power to 100 gallons of water applying 200 to 600 gallons of spray mixture per 43,500 square feet depending upon the height and thickness of the brush. Mix thoroughly before spraying.

600 gal/43,000 sq ft

2/3 gal Tri-power/ 100 gal water x 600 gal/43,000 sq ft = 4 gal/ 43,000 sq.ft.

Tripower MCDA (400/)	Recommended Ap	Recommended Application: 1 gallon/10,000 sq. ft.		
MCPA (40%) Mecoprop (8%) Dicamba (4%)	1 gal ~ 4 liters	If the density of the solution is about 1g/ml, then 1 gallon weighs about 4000 g		
	So, 4,000 g of Tripower will be distributed over 10,000 sq ft			
	or 0.4 g/1 sq. ft. Therefore, 0.4 g o	r 400 mg will contain	10 g bird	
	•	CPA $(400 \times 0.4 \text{ or } 40\%)$	23 X LD-50	

160 mg MCPA	(400 x 0.4 or 40%)
32 mg Mecoprop	(400 x 0.08 or 8%)
16 mg Dicamba	(400 x 0.04 or 4%)

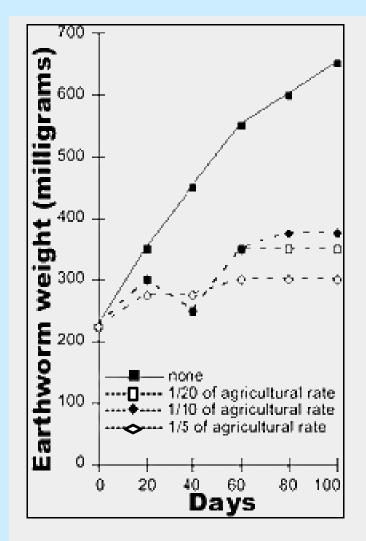
3.2 X 0.8 X

What do these calculations mean for a 10 g bird?

How many sq. ft. contain the LD50 amount of each pesticide? Of the combination?

	LD50	Tri-power application	Degradation
		area containing LD50	half-time
MCPA	7 mg	0.044 (7/160) sq. ft.	14-28 days
		(160 mg/1 sq. ft = 7 mg/ x)	
Mecoprop	10 mg	0.33 (10/32) sq. ft.	15 days
Dicamba	20 mg	1.2 (20/16) sq. ft.	7-28 days

Glyophosate (Roundup) Factsheet: Caroline Cox / Journal of Pesticide Reform v.108, n.3 Fall98 rev.Oct00



Springer, J.A. and R.A.J. Gray. 1992. Effect of repeated low doses of biocides on the earthworm Aporrectodea caliginosa in laboratory culture. Soil Biol. *Biochem.* 24(12): 1739-1744.

Key Concepts in Environmental Health

Multiple Exposures-Mixtures

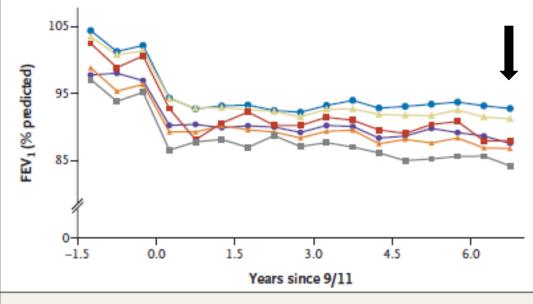
Exposure: functions of multiple materials/chemicals and time

Lung Damage Lingers after 9/11 Aldrich et al, N. England J. Medicine, 362, 1263 (2010)

B Percent of Predicted FEV₁

- Firefighters, never smoked (n=7098)
 EMS workers, never smoked (n=698)
- Firefighters, smoked before 9/11 (n=2790)
- Firefighters, smoked after 9/11 (n=590)
- EMS workers, smoked before 9/11 (n=448)

EMS workers, smoked after 9/11 (n=253)



After 7 years (2008), markers of lung function had not recovered in first responders to 9/11 building collapses.

Exposure mixture: glass fibers, high pH concrete dust, gases, many other constituents (pulverized building materials), cigarette smoke!

Figure 2. Lung Function in Firefighters and Emergency-Medical-Services (EMS) Workers, According to Smoking Status.

Panel A shows mean forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV₁) values (with adjustment for race, sex, height, and age on September 11, 2001 [9/11]) for Fire Department of New York City workers at the World Trade Environmental exposures occur in mixtures not as single chemicals as in laboratory experiments

Key Concepts in Environmental Health

Vulnerable populations: children

Windows of Vulnerability

- During development (conception adolescence)
- During illness or injury
- During aging

Development

- Fetal: organogenesis fetal basis of adult disease (epigenetic impact) obesity, diabetes, heart disease, respiratory function, etc.
- Early: first encounters with environment: infants breathe air closer to the ground, they breathe faster than adults and take in and metabolize more oxygen per weight. They eat more food but with less variety. They put their hands on the ground and in their mouths. ETC.
- Later: cognitive development continues for many years.

Milwaukee City Health Statistics

6.6% (>10 ⊒g/dL)

Children

Lead poisoning http://www.ci.mil.wi.us/LeadPoisoningFacts

Asthma

30,000 (Milwaukee county, 2007)

http://www.chw.org/display/PPF/DocID/36962/Nav/1/router.asp

14% primary school children (2002) 27% 1-3 year olds (2002)

Asthma Surveillance in Urban Public Schools and WIC clinics, Medical College of Wisconsin

Overweight and Obesity

40% and 23%

Citywide Nutrition and Physical Activity for Urban Children and Families project: United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee (Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, July 20, 2008, 2B)

Low birth weight 10% http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/localdata/infantspgwomn/START.HTM

Environmental Lead, Exposure, and Health Effects

Automobile exhaust – phase out 1972-1986

Pre-1980s: blood lead concentrations commonly > 40 \square g/100 ml – frank neurological poisoning with convulsions; anemia

Paint: House dust and soil contamination - Phase out 1971-1977 Present: blood lead for treatment: $\geq 5 \square g/100 \text{ ml} (0.05 \text{ ppm})$

In Milwaukee, - 6.6% exceeded 10 \square g/100 ml, mostly Latino and African American children

http://billmoyers.com/episode/full-show-the-toxic-politics-of-science/

40 µg/100 ml

Chemical Hygiene

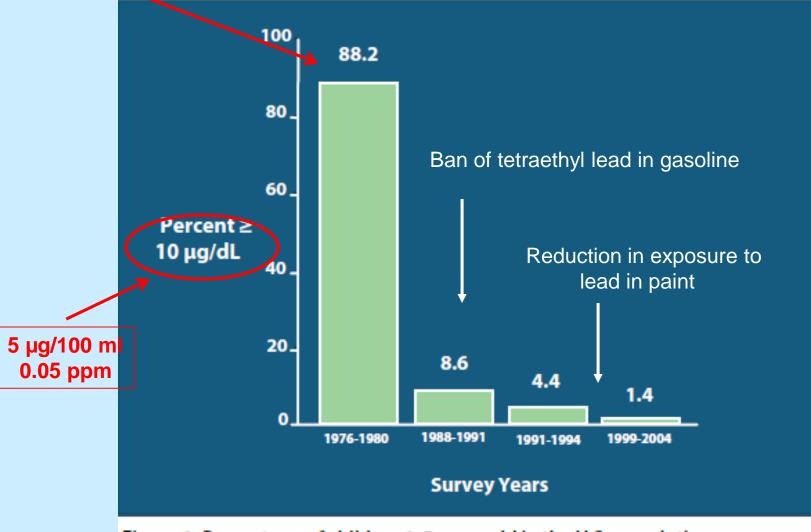


Figure 1. Percentage of children 1-5 years old in the U.S. population with elevated blood lead levels ($\geq 10 \mu g/dL$).¹

¹Jones RL, Homa DM, Meyer PA, Brody DJ, Caldwell KL, Pirkle JL, Brown MJ. Trends in blood lead levels and blood lead testing among U.S. children aged 1 to 5 years, 1988–2004. Pediatrics 2009;123(3):e376-e385.

Environmental Lead, Exposure, and Health Effects

History

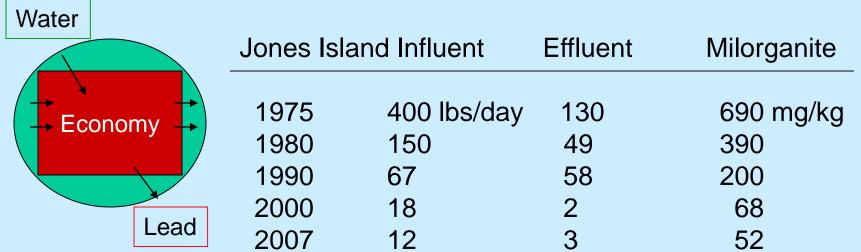
Contamination routes: Auto exhaust house paint (50% lead)

1970s downtown street dust: ~0.1% lead

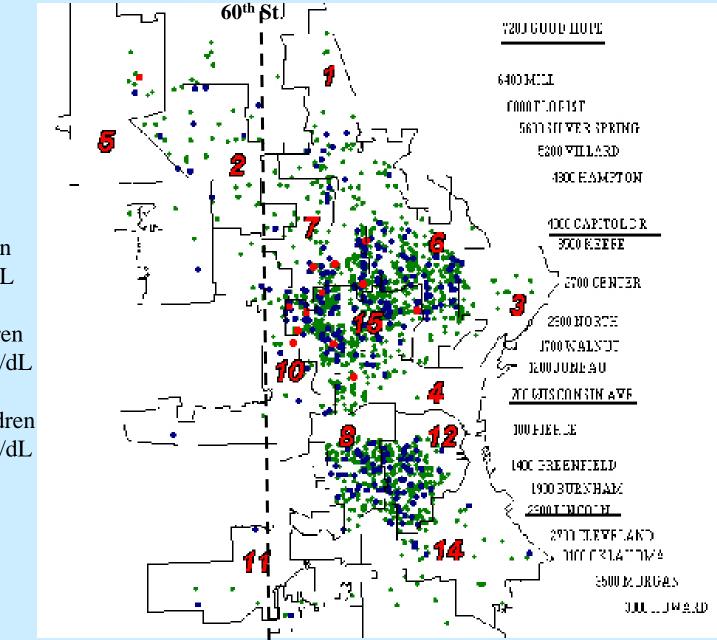
Current home soil Pb: ~0.03 % lead

Hair sampling on southwest side: elevated lead downwind from battery smelter

Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District handling of environmental <u>lead</u>



City of Milwaukee Lead Prevention Program - 2005



14 children >44 \square g/dL

392 children 20-44 **□**g/dL

1692 children 10-19 **□**g/dL

Environmental Lead, Exposure, and Health Effects

Automobile exhaust – phase out 1972-1986

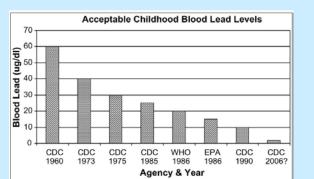
Pre-1980s: blood lead concentrations commonly > 40 \square g/100 ml – frank neurological poisoning with convulsions; anemia

Paint: House dust and soil contamination - Phase out 1971-1977

Soil contamination: routinely 400 ppm (0.04%)

Present: maximal permissible blood lead limit - 5
g/100 ml

In Milwaukee, - 6.6% exceed this level, mostly Latino and African American children Above this level, more subtle neurological effects – cognitive deficits (IQ reduction), hyperactivity, ...



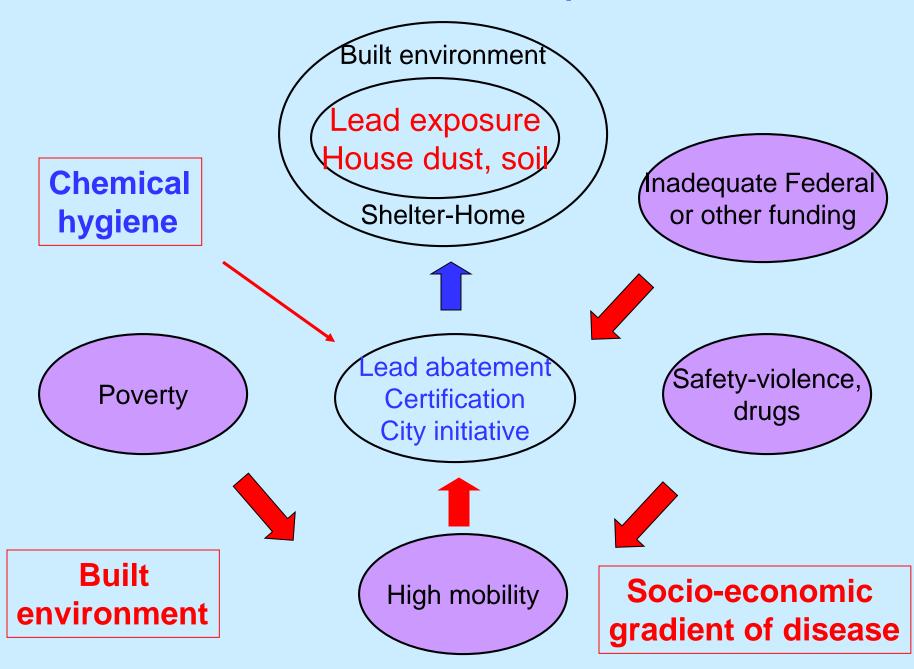
Studies show effects below 10 g/100 ml !

S.G. Gilbert and B. Weiss, A rationale for lowering the the blood lead action level from 10 to 2 microg/dL,Neurotoxicology, 27, 693-701 (2006)

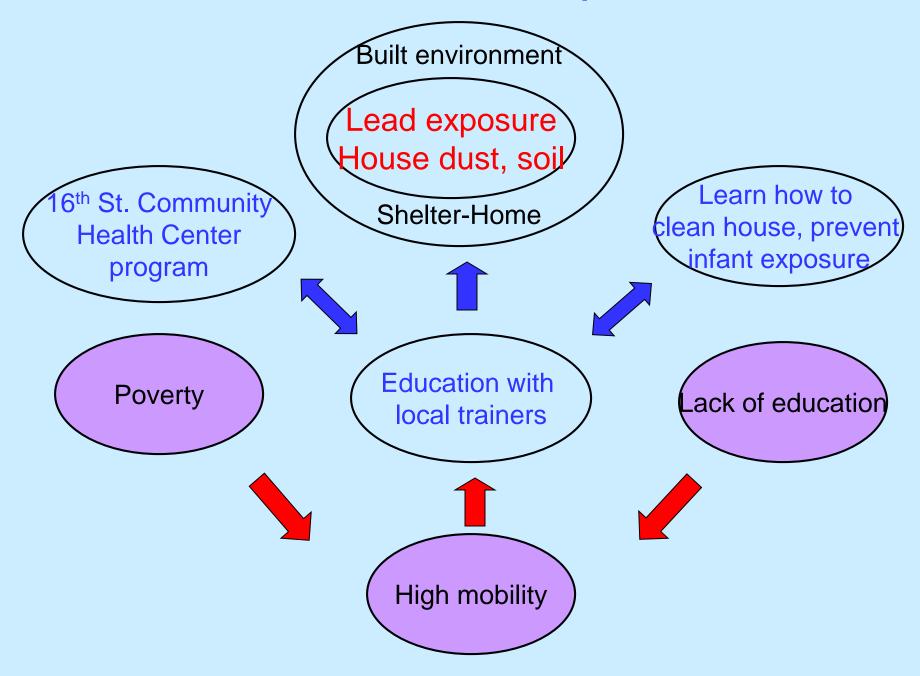
Key Concepts in Environmental Health

Role of the Built Environment

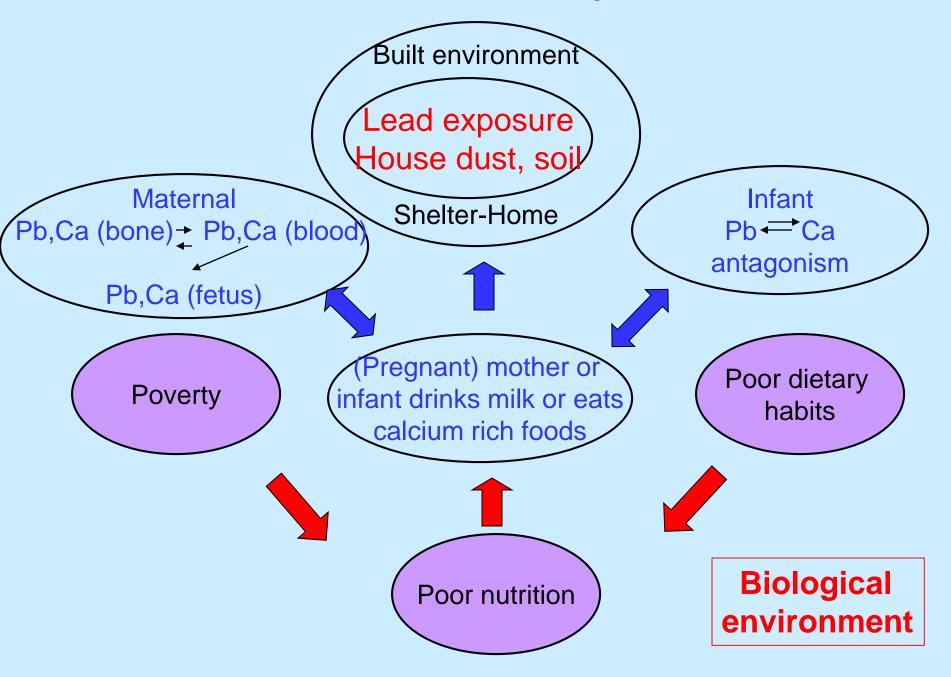
What Can Be Done to Limit Exposure to Lead ?



What Can Be Done to Limit Exposure to Lead ?



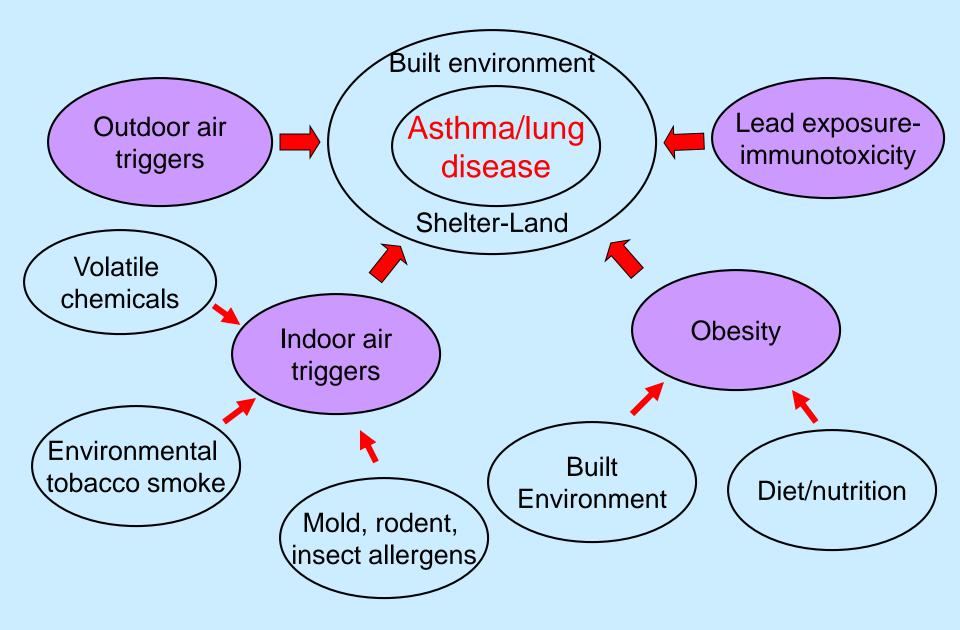
What Can Be Done to Limit Exposure to Lead ?



Key Concepts in Environmental Health

Multiple confounding factors

Major Health Problem of the Built Environment Unexpected connections throughout the built environment



Key Concepts in Environmental Health

Causal relationships

How Shall We Understand and Address These Environmental Health Issues?

Understanding as a basis for action

Causality

When can scientists decide that A causes B? Single cause (infectious agent) Close temporal relationship between exposure and effect Obvious, acute effect

Duplicate effects in the laboratory (single variable experiment)

When is it difficult to link A with B?

Multiple causative factors that contribute in different ways (A (susceptibility factor); B (environmental-direct action factor, permissive factor)
Slowly developing (chronic) effect
Difficulties in linking population (multi-factor) and laboratory (controlled, single factor) studies

Understanding as a basis for action

- STEM as major tool
- Vulnerable populations

fetus, children, elderly, genetically pre-disposed individuals and groups

 Precautionary Principle – the Ecology Principle: everything is connected to everything else

Less than secure population or laboratory studies implicate **A** as a cause of **B**. This is a common situation in environmental health research.

Policy stance in the face of uncertainty: "When an activity raises threats of harm to the environment or human health, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically."

Scientists' statement: 1998 Wingspread Conference, Racine, WI

Environment-environmental Health Continuum

Our health is related to the condition/health of the environment

Human genetic constitution/genome has not changed significantly in the last 10,000 years, but our environment has radically changed.

Most of our increase in life span is due to better "hygiene" or public health clean air and water, stable sources of nutritious food, adequate shelter, good biological and chemical hygiene, etc. In a word, these are facets of public health.

Public health, by definition, focuses on populations, communities, and environments. Health improvements are founded on (re)establishing healthy interactions/connections between these components.