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Biology: _____
Date: _____

Unit I
Biology – The Nature of Science
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I

Read the short passage and, then, complete the two boxes beneath it.

Biology is a [natural science](#) concerned with the study of [life](#) and living [organisms](#), including their structure, function, growth, origin, evolution, distribution, and taxonomy.^[1] Biology is a vast subject containing many subdivisions, topics, and disciplines. Among the most important topics are five unifying principles that can be said to be the fundamental axioms of modern biology.^[2]

1. [Cells](#) are the basic unit of life
2. New species and inherited traits are the product of [evolution](#)
3. [Genes](#) are the basic unit of [heredity](#)
4. An organism [regulates](#) its internal environment to maintain a stable and constant condition
5. Living organisms consume and transform [energy](#).

Subdisciplines of biology are recognized on the basis of the scale at which organisms are studied and the methods used to study them: [biochemistry](#) examines the rudimentary chemistry of life; [molecular biology](#) studies the complex interactions of systems of biological molecules; [cellular biology](#) examines the basic building block of all life, the [cell](#); [physiology](#) examines the physical and chemical functions of the [tissues](#), [organs](#), and [organ systems](#) of an organism; and [ecology](#) examines how various organisms interact and associate with their environment.^[3]

Write a sentence that defines the term “biology” in your own words.

List three words from the passage above whose meaning you are unfamiliar with. Write a definition for those three words that you think might apply to those words in this context.

Unit I – Biology – The Nature of Science – Observations