

origin of Life

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jtkoch@pbs.org pbsinternational.org The Search for the Origin of Life follows four groups of researchers from NASA's elite Astrobiology Institute as they attempt to answer one of humanity's oldest questions: how did life begin? As they travel to the perpetually frozen glaciers of the Canadian Arctic, the inhospitable thermal springs of Yellowstone National Park, and the deep, mysterious caves in Italy, the researchers find clues that might inform our understanding of the early Earth and help to unravel the mystery of where we came from.

Since the dawn of time humans have pondered the mystery of our existence. Where do we come from? What defines something as being alive? Is life on our planet unique or could there be life elsewhere in the Universe? But, perhaps more deeply mysterious is the idea that if life started on our own planet, is it possible that the conditions on other planets could spawn a similar existence?

From resurrecting billon year-old enzymes to building giant machines aimed at recreating ancient oceans—scientists from across the U.S. attempt to answer some of humanity's oldest questions using cutting-edge technology. Revealing interviews, high-tech animations, and adventures to the corners of our Earth bring the driving new force of origin of life research to the forefront of our imagination as we discover the latest scientific theories on what life really is and how it began.

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