

Figure 3-1 Elements essential to animal life and health. Bulk elements (shaded orange) are structural components of cells and tissues and are required in the diet in amounts greater than 0.01%.

Atom	Number of unpaired electrons (in red)	Number of electrons in complete outer shell
H ·	1	2
:O ·	2	8
:N ·	3	8
:C ·	4	8
:S ·	2	8
:P ·	3	8

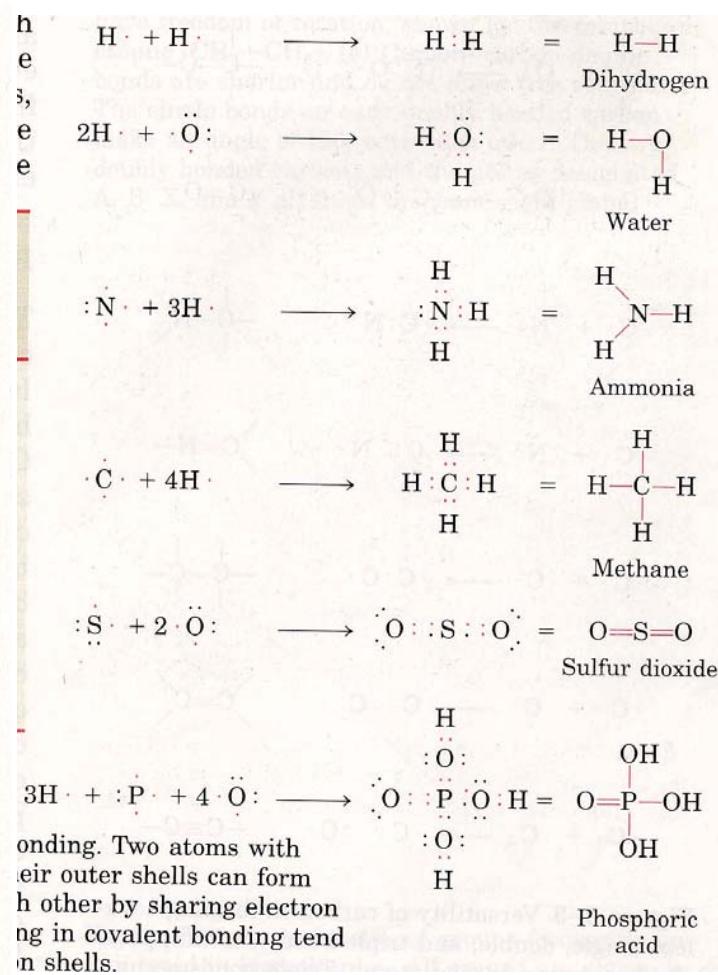
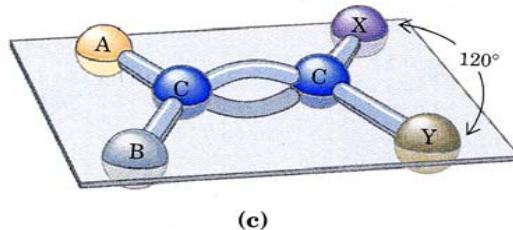
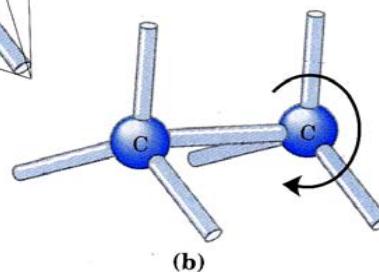
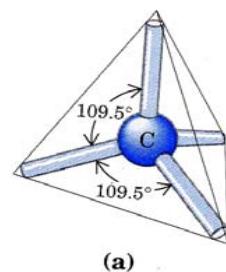
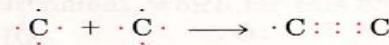
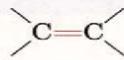
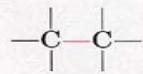
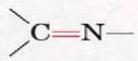
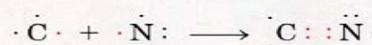
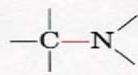
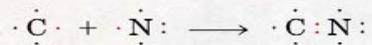
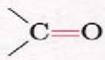
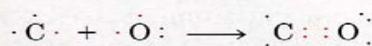
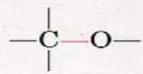
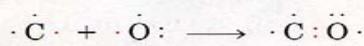
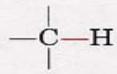
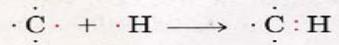
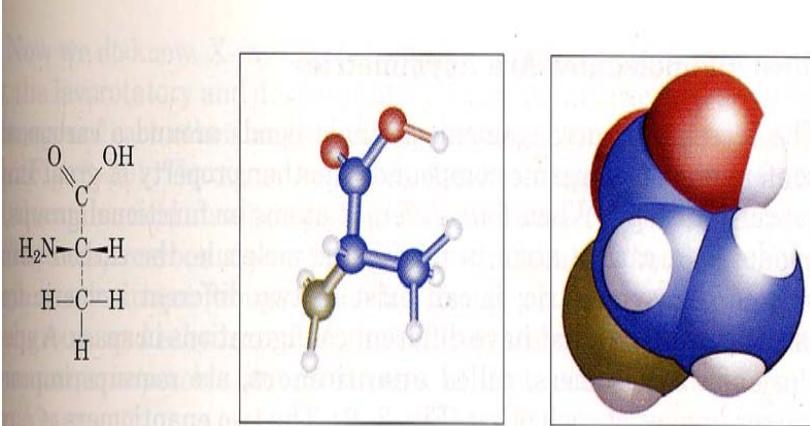


Table 3–2 The biological functions of some trace elements

Element	Example of biological function
Fe	Electron carrier in oxidation-reduction reactions
Cu	Component of mitochondrial oxidase
Mn	Cofactor of the enzyme arginase and other enzymes
Zn	Cofactor of dehydrogenases
Co	Component of vitamin B ₁₂
Mo	Component of N ₂ -fixing enzyme
Se	Component of the enzyme glutathione peroxidase
V	Cofactor of the enzyme nitrate reductase
Ni	Cofactor of the enzyme urease
I	Component of thyroid hormone
Mg	Cofactor in photosynthesis





(a)

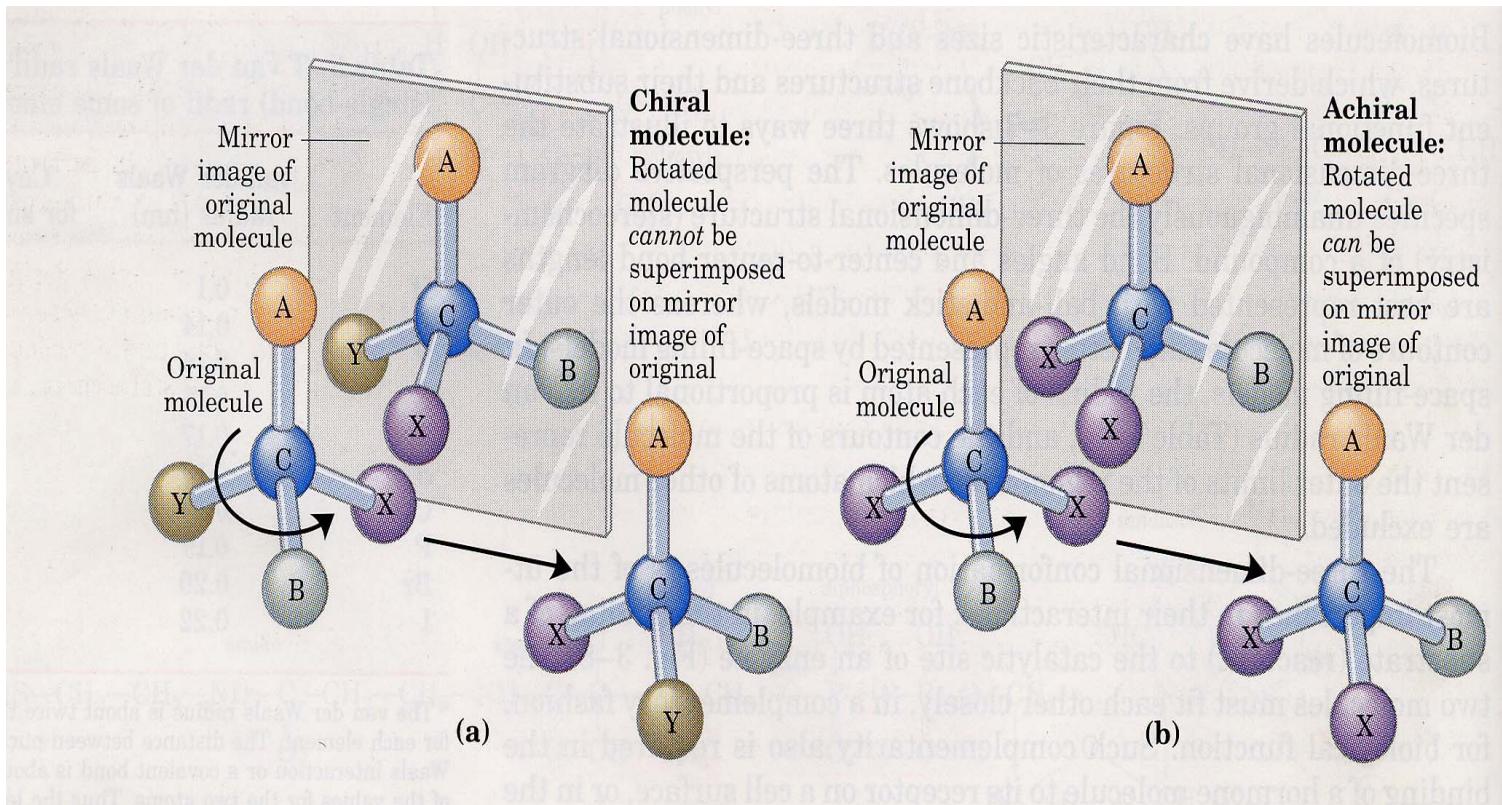
(b)

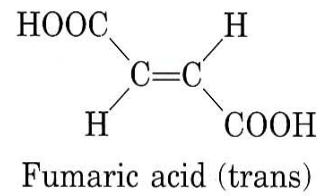
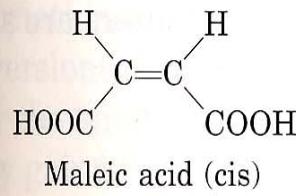
(c)

Table 3–3 van der Waals radii and covalent (single-bond) radii of some elements*

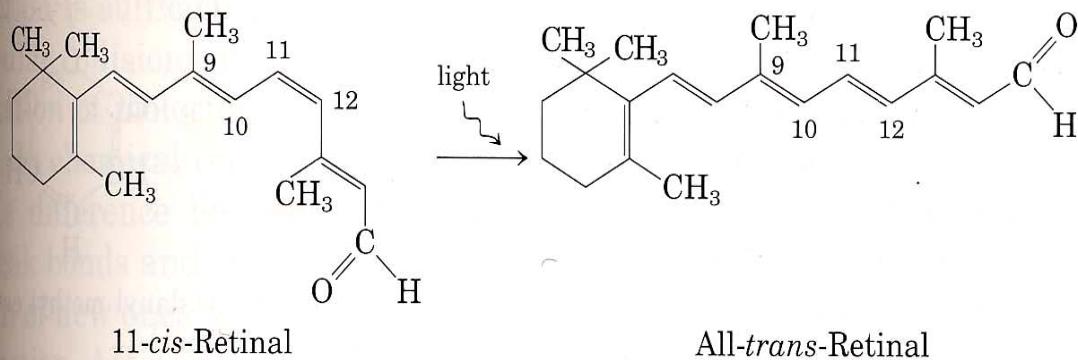
Element	van der Waals radius (nm)	Covalent radius for single bond (nm)
H	0.1	0.030
O	0.14	0.074
F	0.14	0.071
N	0.15	0.073
C	0.17	0.077
S	0.18	0.103
Cl	0.18	0.099
P	0.19	0.110
Br	0.20	0.114
I	0.22	0.133

* The van der Waals radius is about twice the covalent radius for each element. The distance between nuclei in a van der Waals interaction or a covalent bond is about equal to the sum of the values for the two atoms. Thus the length of a carbon–carbon single bond is about $0.077 + 0.077 = 0.154$ nm.

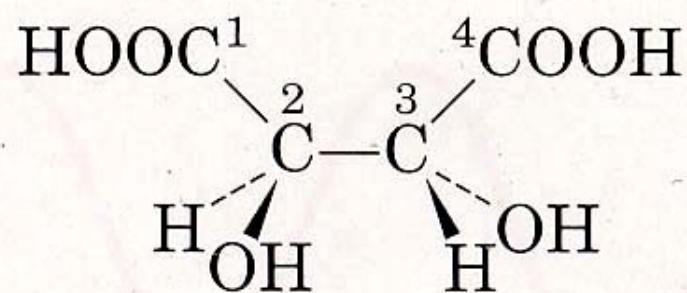




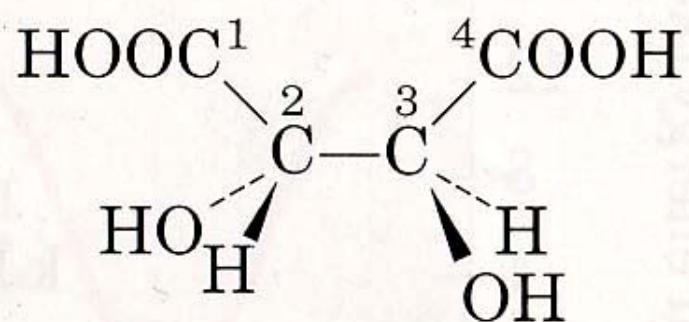
(a)



(b)



$2R,3R$ -Tartaric acid
(dextrorotatory)



$2S,3S$ -Tartaric acid
(levorotatory)

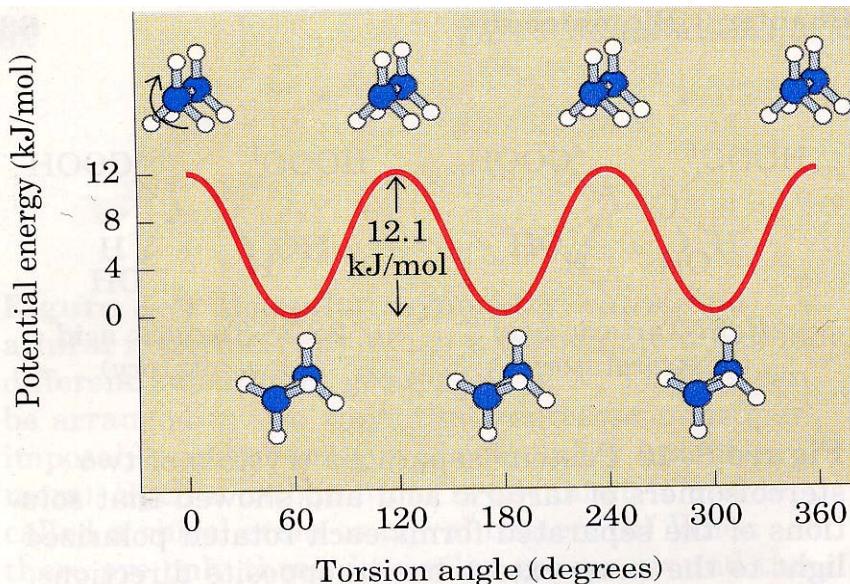


Table 3-4 The electronegativities
of some elements

Element	Electronegativity*
F	4.0
O	3.5
Cl	3.0
N	3.0
Br	2.8
S	2.5
C	2.5
I	2.5
Se	2.4
P	2.1
H	2.1
Cu	1.9
Fe	1.8
Co	1.8
Ni	1.8
Mo	1.8
Zn	1.6
Mn	1.5
Mg	1.2
Ca	1.0
Li	1.0
Na	0.9
K	0.8

* The higher the number, the more electro-negative is the element.

Table 3–5 Strengths of bonds common in biomolecules

Type of bond	Bond dissociation energy (kJ/mol)	Type of bond	Bond dissociation energy (kJ/mol)
<i>Single bonds</i>			
O—H	461	C=O	712
H—H	435	C=N	615
P—O	419	C=C	611
C—H	414	P=O	502
N—H	389	<i>Double bonds</i>	
C—O	352	<i>Triple bonds</i>	
C—C	348	C≡C	816
S—H	339	N≡N	930
C—N	293	<i>Noncovalent bonds or interactions</i>	
C—S	260	Hydrogen bonds	4–20
N—O	222	van der Waals interactions	
S—S	214	Hydrophobic interactions	
		Ionic interactions	

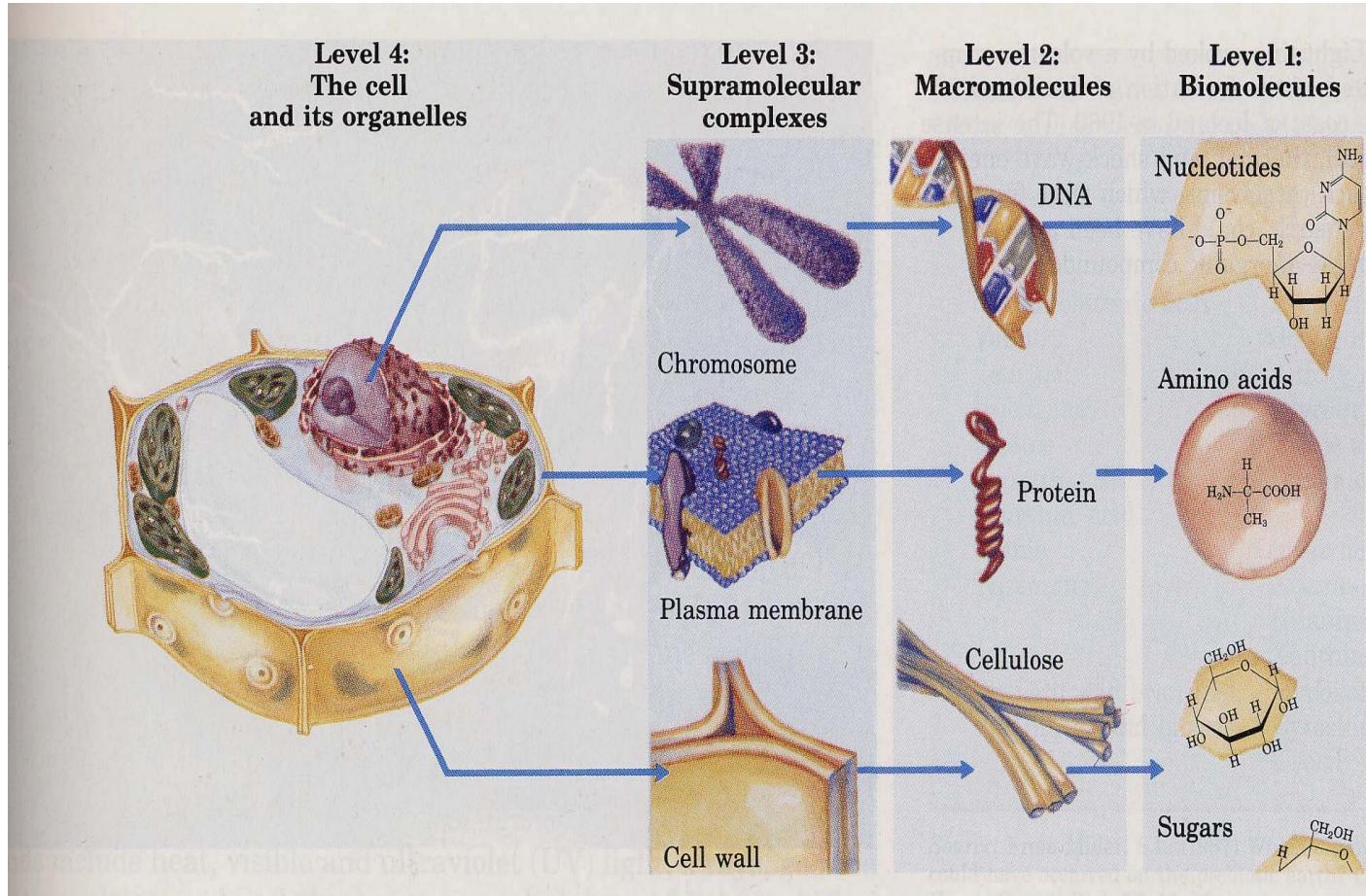


Table 3–1 Elemental abundance in seawater, the human body, and the earth's crust*

	Seawater (%)		Human body (%)		Earth's crust (%)	
H	66		H	63	O	47
O	33		O	25.5	Si	28
Cl	0.33		C	9.5	Al	7.9
Na	0.28		N	1.4	Fe	4.5
Mg	0.033		Ca	0.31	Ca	3.5
S	0.017		P	0.22	Na	2.5
Ca	0.0062		Cl	0.08	K	2.5
K	0.0060		K	0.06	Mg	2.2
C	0.0014					

* Values are given as percentage of total number of atoms.

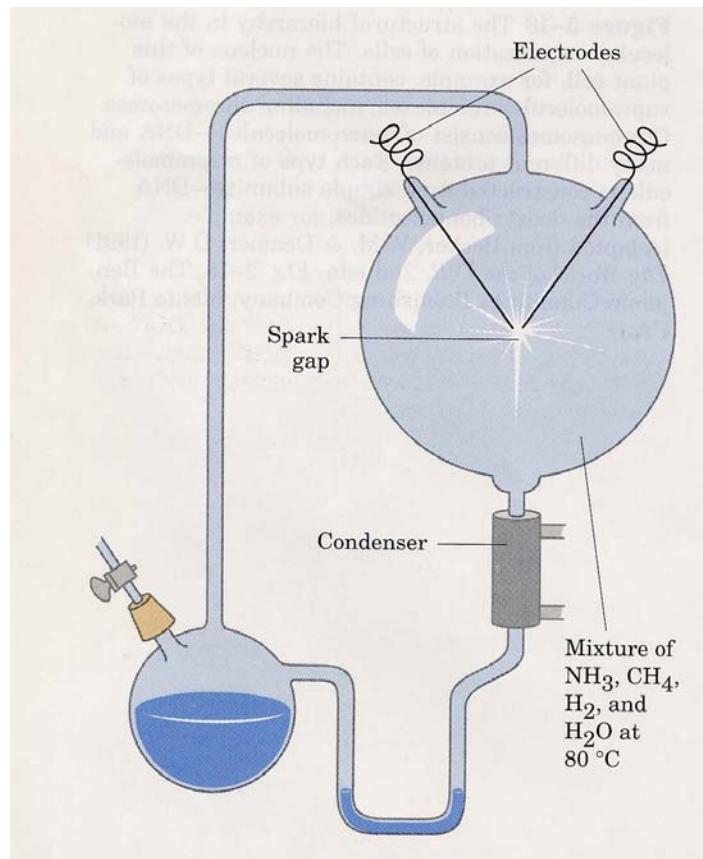


Table 3–8 Some of the products shown to form under prebiotic conditions

<i>Amino acids</i>	<i>Carboxylic acids</i>
Glycine	Formic acid
Alanine	Acetic acid
α -Aminobutyric acid	Propionic acid
Valine	Straight and branched
Leucine	fatty acids (C_4-C_{10})
Isoleucine	Glycolic acid
Proline	Lactic acid
Aspartic acid	Succinic acid
Glutamic acid	
Serine	<i>Nucleic acid bases</i>
Threonine	Adenine
<i>Sugars</i>	Guanine
Straight and branched pentoses and hexoses	Xanthine
	Hypoxanthine
	Cytosine
	Uracil

Creation of prebiotic soup, including nucleotides,
from earth's primitive atmosphere

Production of short RNA molecules
with random sequences

Selective replication of self-duplicating
catalytic RNA segments

Synthesis of specific peptides,
catalyzed by RNA

Increasing role of peptides in RNA replication;
coevolution of RNA and protein

Primitive translation system develops,
with RNA genome and RNA–protein catalysts

Genomic RNA begins to be copied into DNA

DNA genome, translated on RNA–protein complex
(ribosome) with protein catalysts