

Viewed from space, Earth offers very few clues about the diversity of life forms that can be found there. The first forms of life on Earth are thought to have been microorganisms that existed for billions of years before plants and animals appeared. Mammals, birds, and flowers are all relatively recent additions to the planet, originating 130 to 200 million years ago. Humans have only inhabited this planet for the last 2.5 million years, and only in the last 200,000 years have humans started looking like we do today.