

## A GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGY

(1-Grammar Focus : The Present Simple / The Past Simple)

### 1- WHAT IS BIOLOGY ?

It is the scientific study of **living things** including humans , animals and plants .

### 2- ETHYMOLOGY OF THE WORD :

Biology comes from the two Greek words : 'Bios' which means 'Life' , and 'Logy' meaning 'The study of ' .

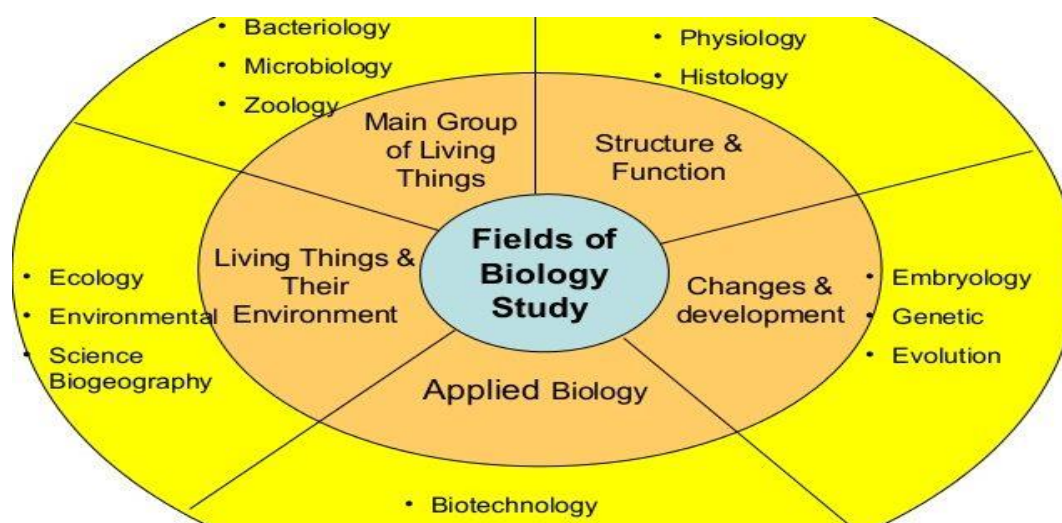


Figure 1 : The scopes of Biology

### 3- A BRIEF HISTORY ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF BIOLOGY :

The German naturalistic ' Treviranus ' was the first one to use the term Biology in 1802 .In his writing established , he defined this field as a domain containing the different phenomena and forms of life , the conditions that govern their existence and the causes that determine their activities.

The exact beginning of the biology is still unknown . Through history , many civilisations have achieved this domain and developed many aspects . The following table will explain the main civilisations and their achievements

1- The babylonians	They learned that the date palm reproduces sexually and that pollen could be taken from the male plant and used to fertilize female plants.
2- The Egyptians	Their well-preserved mummies show that they had a through understanding of the preservative properties of herbs required for embalming .
3- The Greek/ Romans	The Greek philosophers thought that every event has a cause , and that a particular cause produces a particular consequence. That concept known as ‘ Causality ‘ had a profound effect of the scientific investigation. Hence , their gratest contribution is the idea of rational thought.

#### 4-THE FIELDS OF THE STUDY OF BIOLOGY :

Biology has many fields of study such as Ecology , Zoology and Physiology  
The followings are the ones available in Badji Mokhtar University :

- **Biological sciences** : they contain many sub-fields , such as vegetal biology , animal biology , Microbiolgy , Biochemistery , Toxicology ,
- **Ecology** , the branch that deals with the relations of organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings
- **Marine biology** :the scientif study of marine life , organisms in the sea
- **Biotechnology** : the exploitation of biological processes for undestrial and other purposes