



- Life on Earth is built of carbon
- Cells are about:

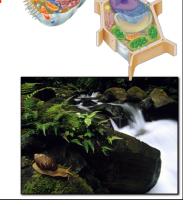
72% H₂O

25% carbon compounds

- carbohydrates
- lipids
- proteins
- nucleic acids

3% salts

• Na, Cl, K...

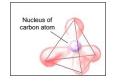


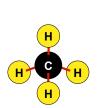
Why Is Carbon So Important?

- Organic vs. Inorganic in Chemistry
 - Organic refers to molecules containing a carbon skeleton
 - Inorganic refers to carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and all molecules without a carbon skeleton

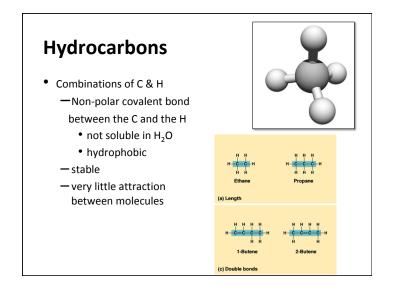
Chemistry of Life

- Carbon atoms are versatile building blocks
 - Can form 4 stable non-polar covalent bonds









Functional groups

- Parts of organic molecules that are involved in chemical reactions
 - give organic molecules distinctive properties

hydroxyl amino carbonyl carboxyl phosphate

- Affect reactivity
 - makes hydrocarbons hydrophilic
 - increase solubility in water

