

# Tree of Life

S P E C I E S

L I N K

"This we know - the earth does not belong to people, people belong to the earth. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the children of the earth. People did not weave the web of life; we are merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves."

Chief Seattle \*



All living things use DNA, or the closely related RNA, as their genetic material. They all use the same code to translate the DNA sequence into the proteins that make up their bodies. This is strong evidence for the "unity of life" - all living things are in fact related by evolution from a common ancestor. Over hundreds of millions of years some branches have died out, while others continue to produce new species like the growing leaves of a tree.

\*Chief Seattle was the original author of the "Speech" which is often quoted. The speech is said to contain many more lines than those shown here. The speech is available in the book "The Story of the World" by H. W. Henshaw.