

Crosscutting Concepts



Patterns

Cause & Effect: Mechanism & Explanation

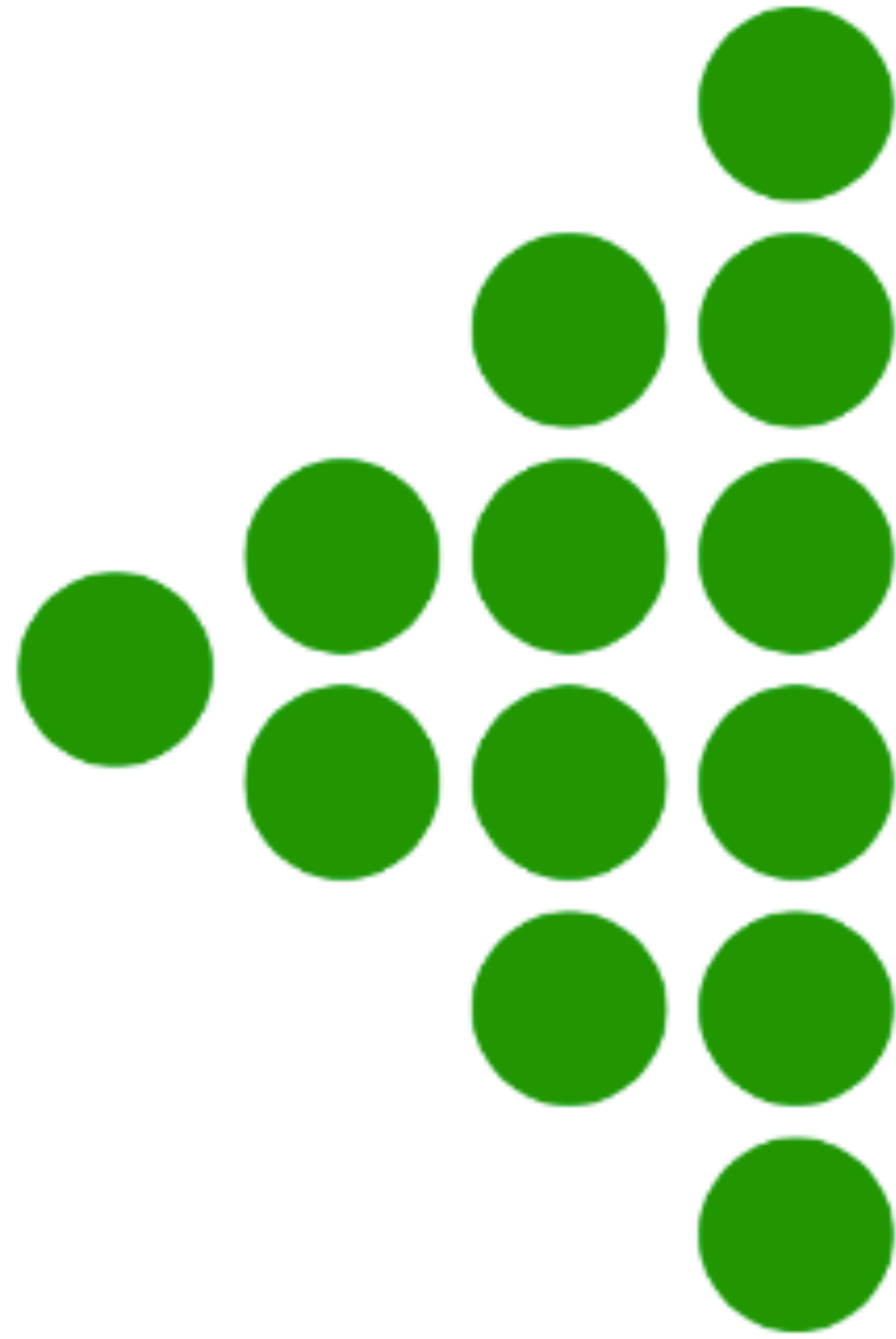
Scale, Proportion, & Quantity

Systems & System Models

Energy & Matter: Flow, Cycle, Conservation

Structure & Function

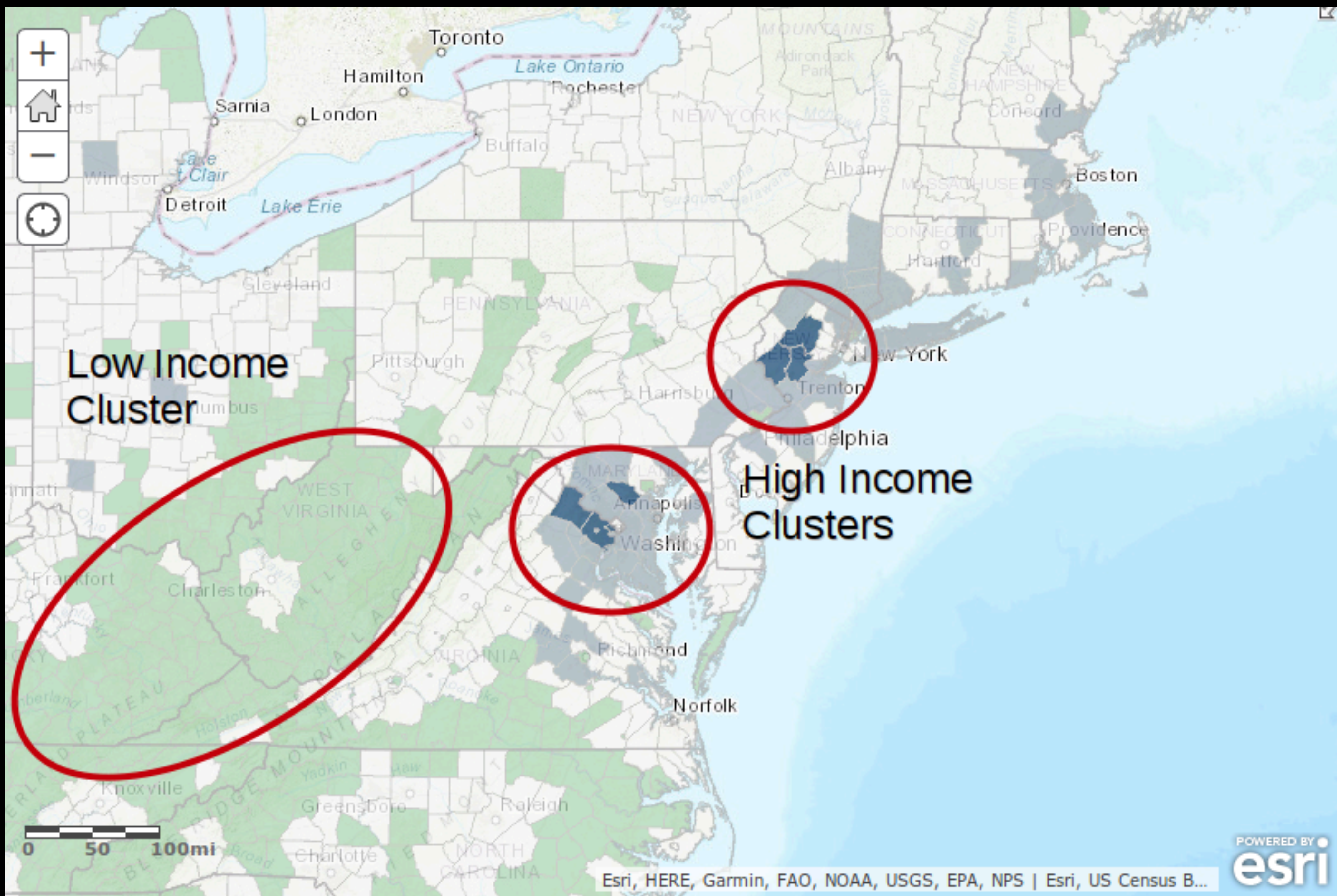
Stability & Change



Patterns





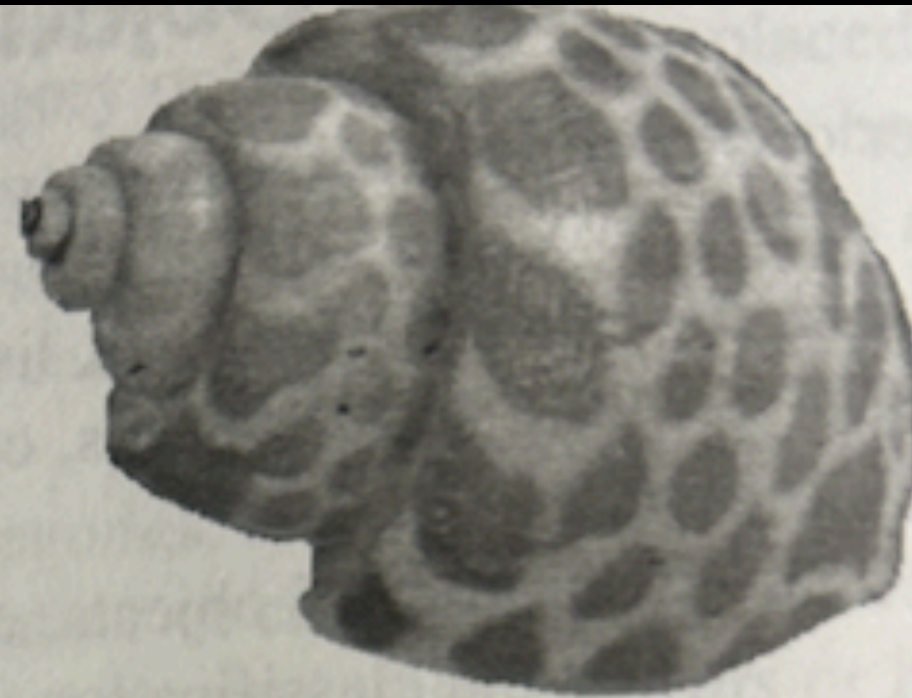




1

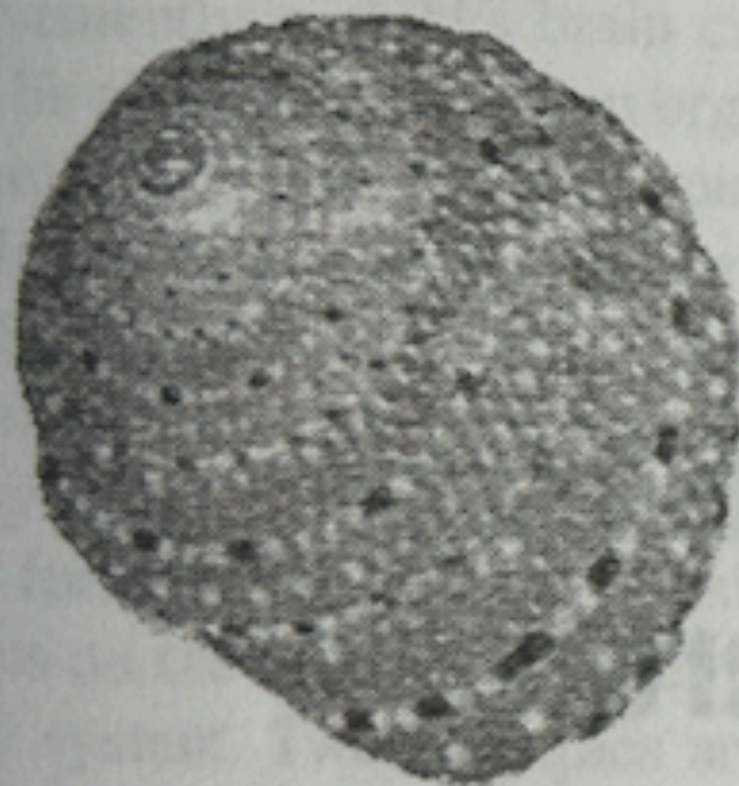


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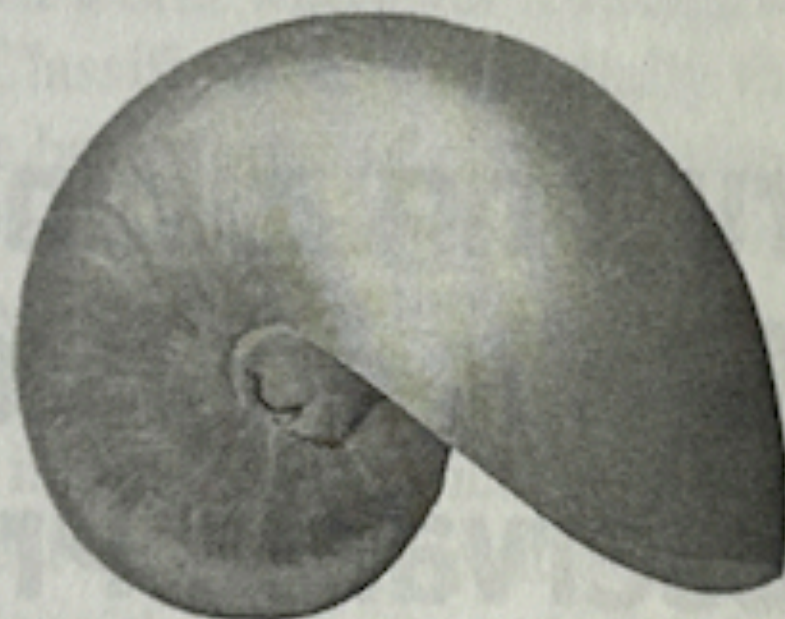


3

Classification



4



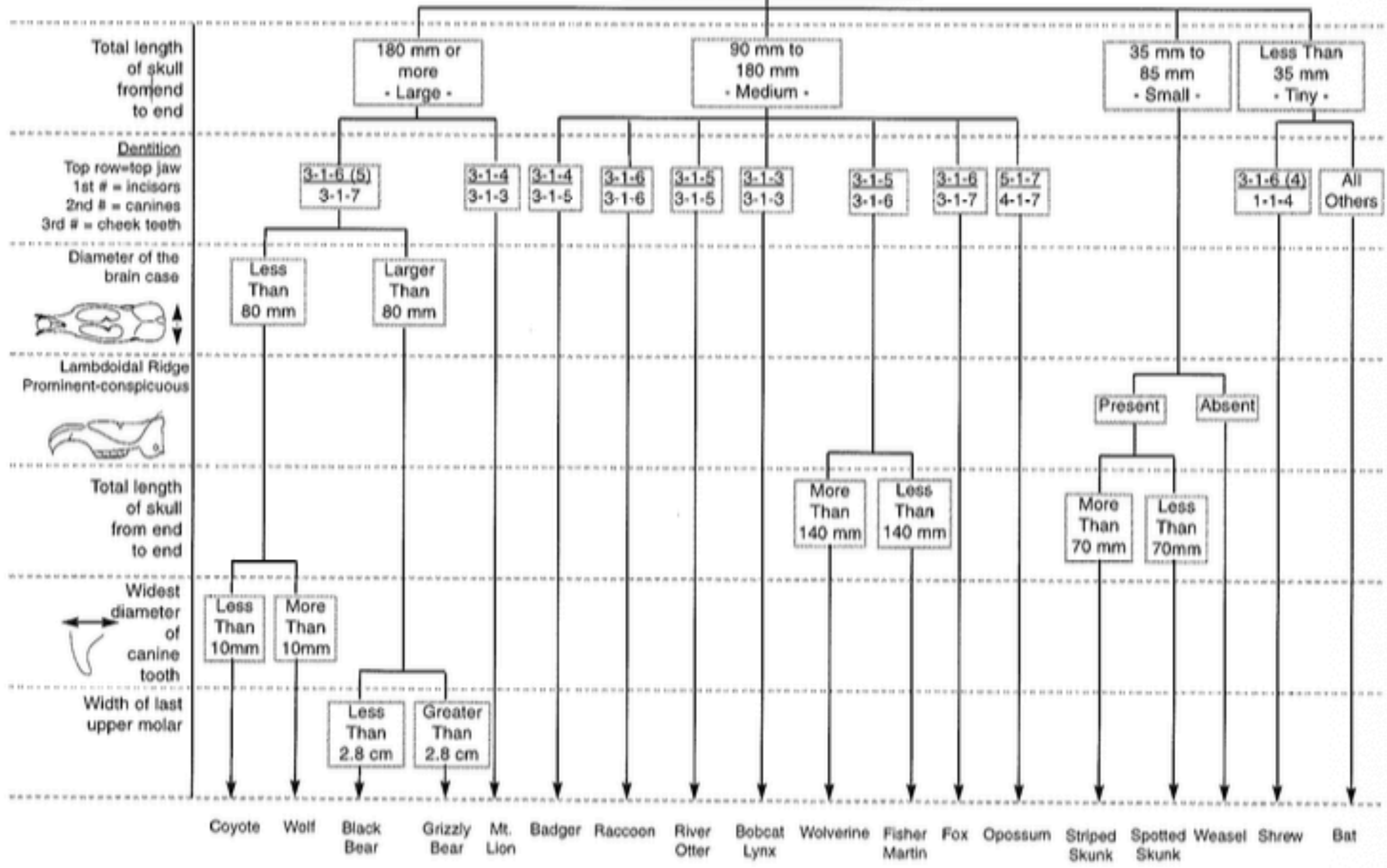
5



6

Observable Properties	Yes	No
1. has dark spots	3, 4	1, 2, 5, 6

Canine Teeth Dominant (Carnivore-like)

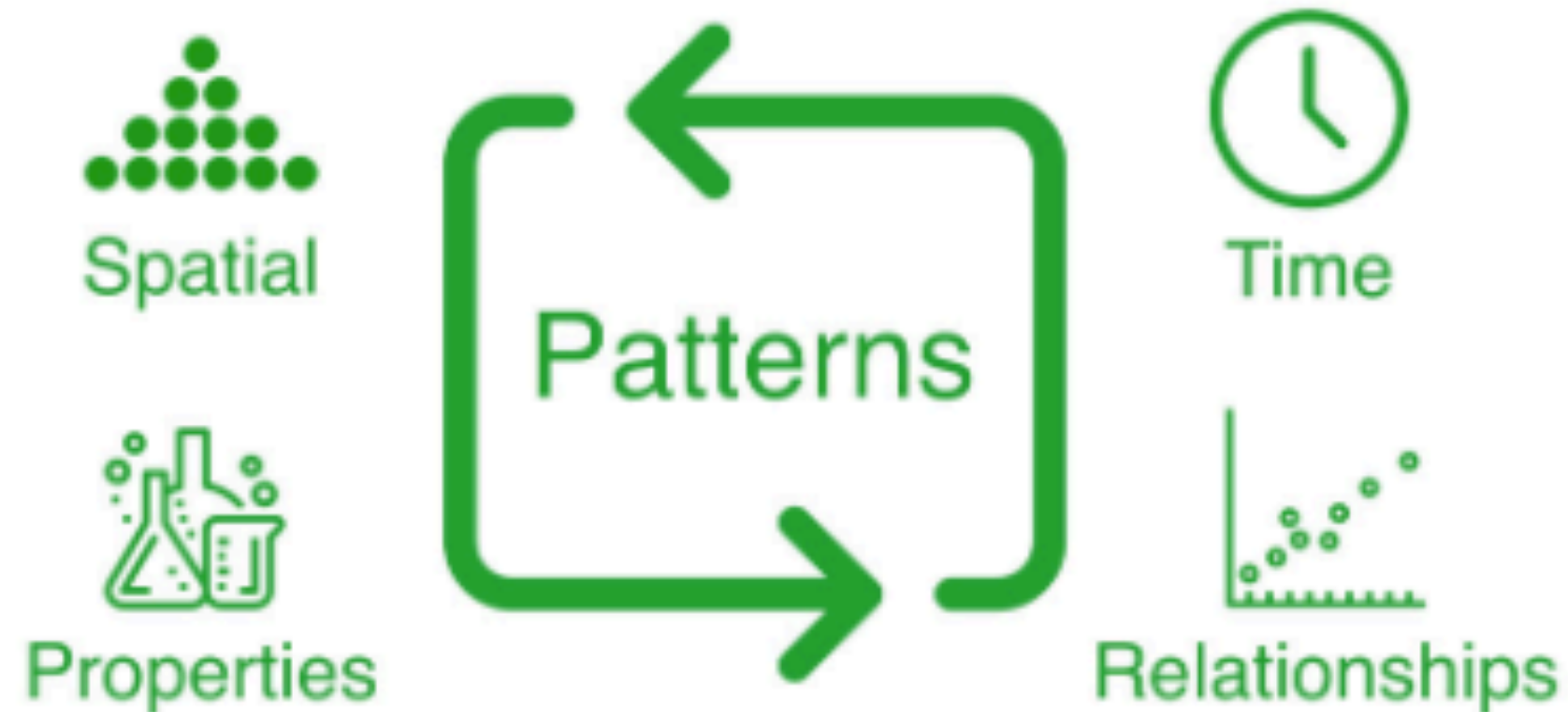


Patterns

Observed patterns of forms and events guide organization and classification, and they prompt questions about relationships and the factors that influence them.

Framing Questions

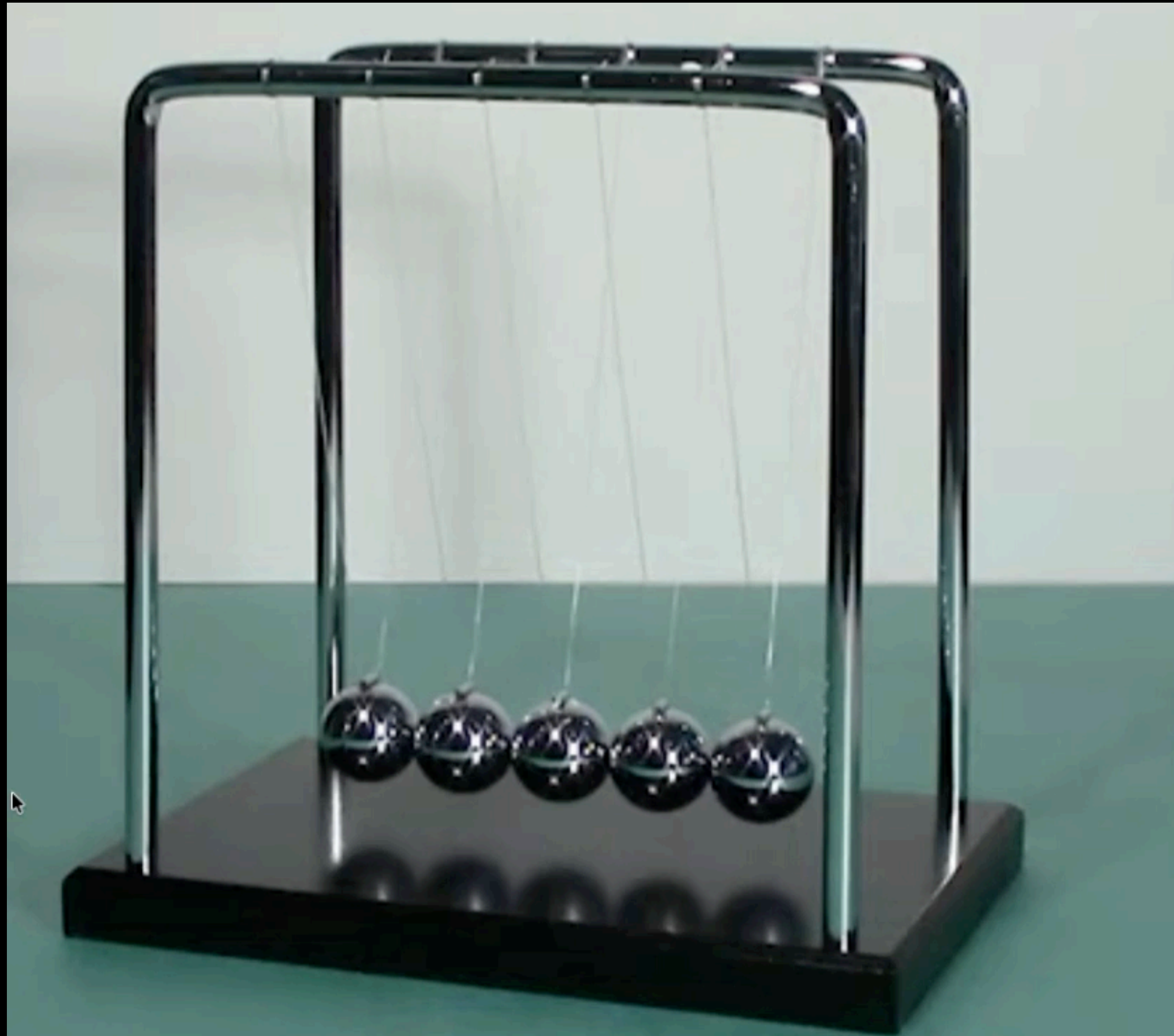
- What structures or shapes are found in the phenomenon or system after careful observation?
- What cycles or events repeat over time?
- How could these patterns be represented?
- How could patterns be used to classify or organize objects and events?
- What causal relationships are found in the data?

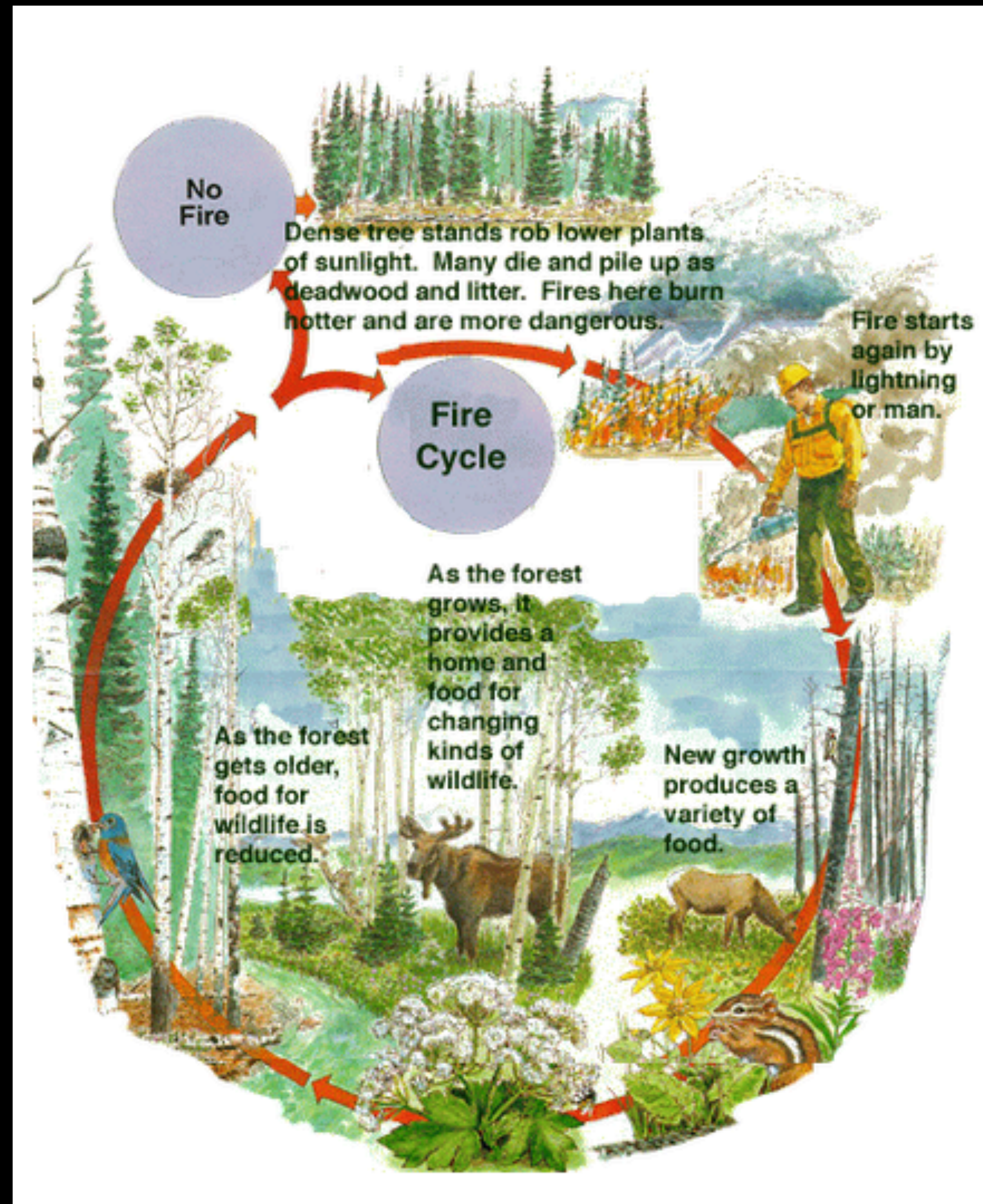




Cause
Effect





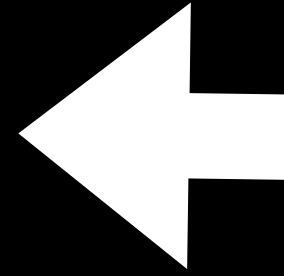
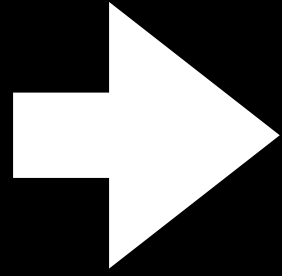


Kokanee Spawning - Color Plate



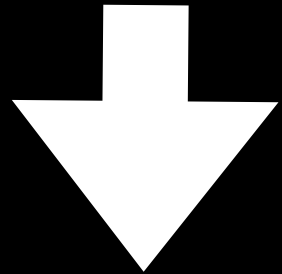
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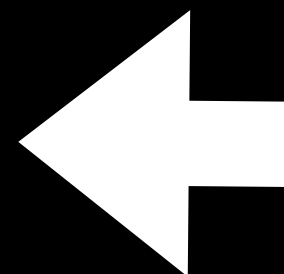


Kokanee Spawning - Color Plate



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Kokanee Spawning - Color Plate

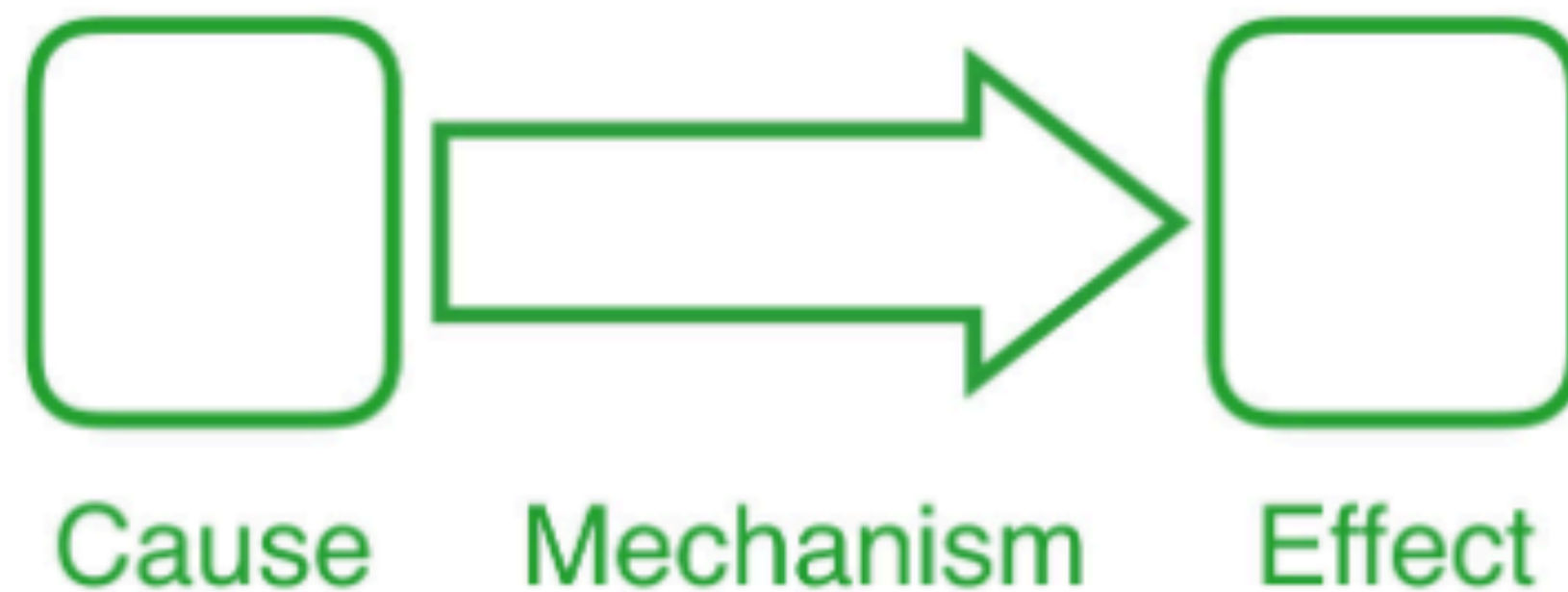
© Joseph Tomelleri

Cause and Effect

Events have causes, sometimes simple, sometimes multifaceted. Correlation does not imply causation.

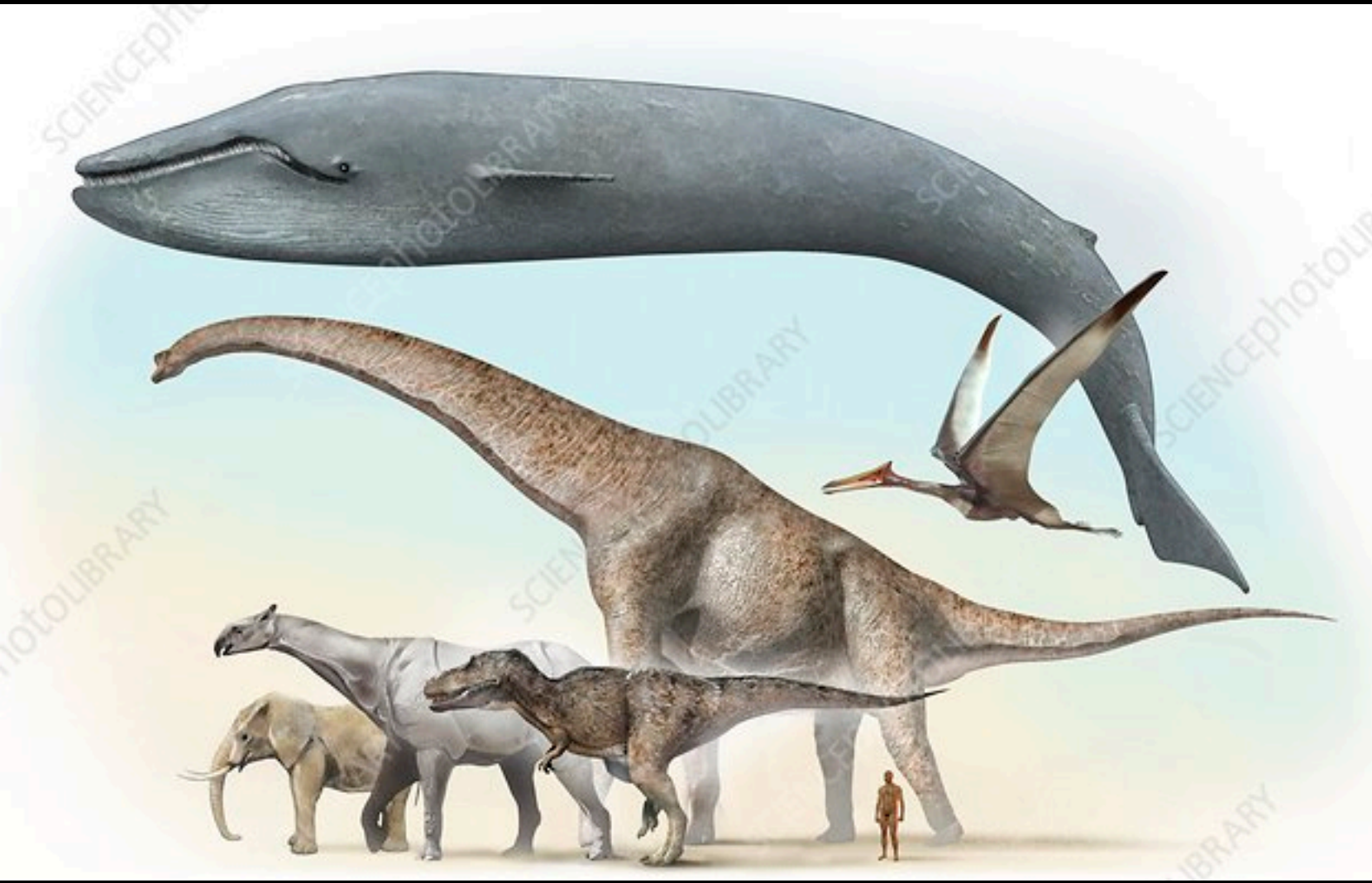
Framing Questions

- What relationships between events or patterns can be observed in the phenomenon or system?
- How can these relationships be explained?
- Are any of these relationships cause and effect?
- What evidence supports a cause and effect relationship?
- What further investigations would help determine if these relationships are cause and effect?



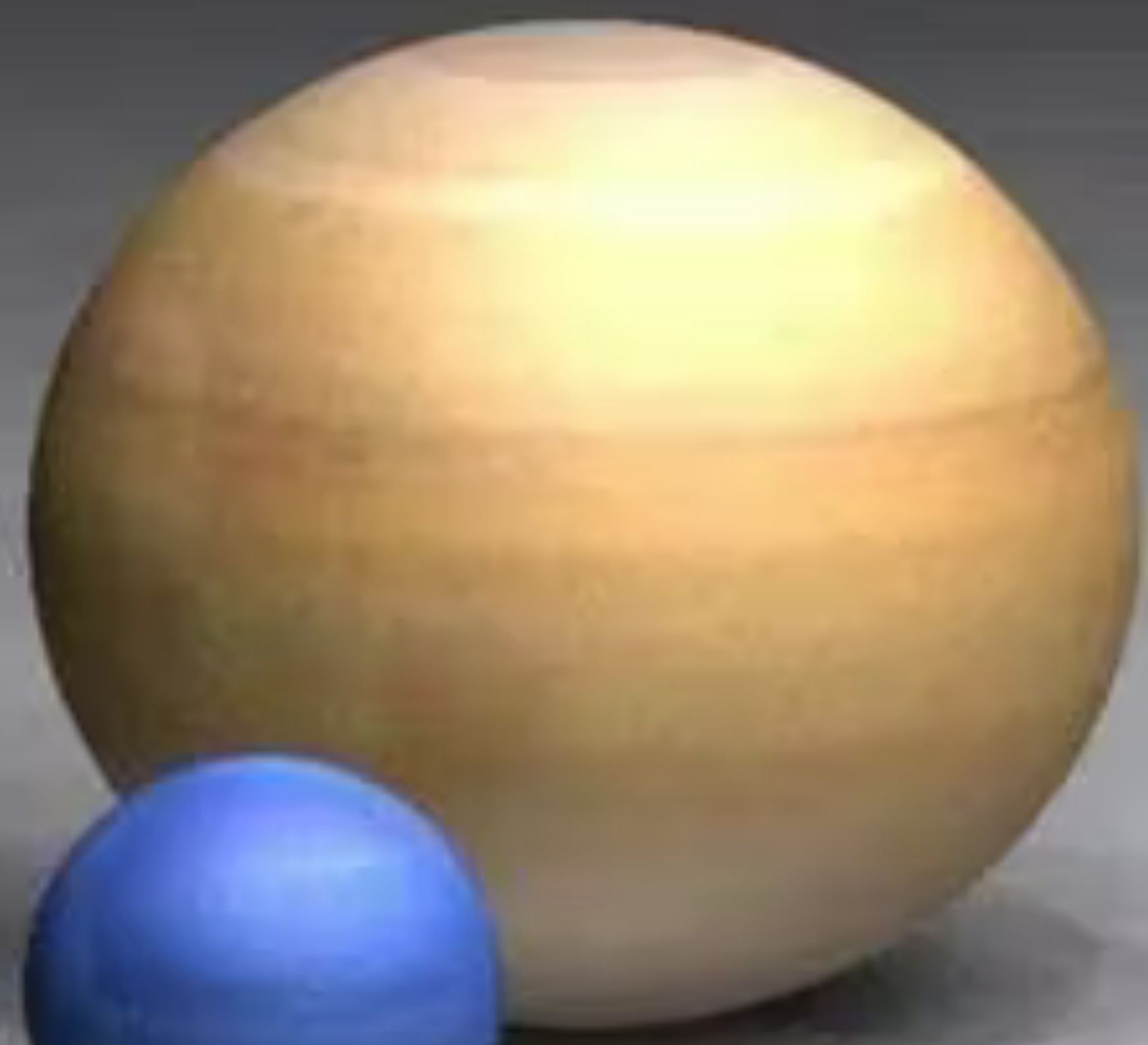


Scale
Proportion
Quantity



Jupiter

Saturn



Uranus

Neptune

Earth →



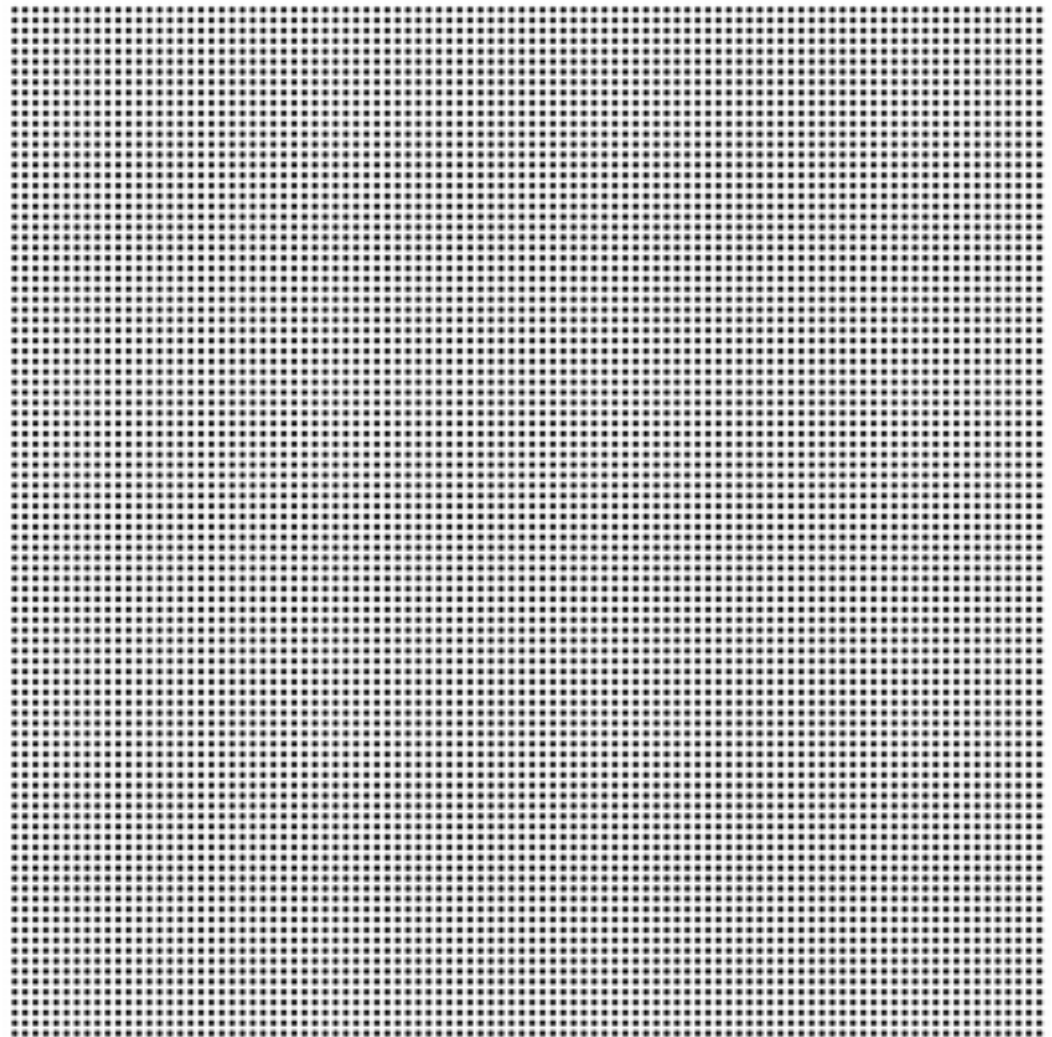
← Pluto

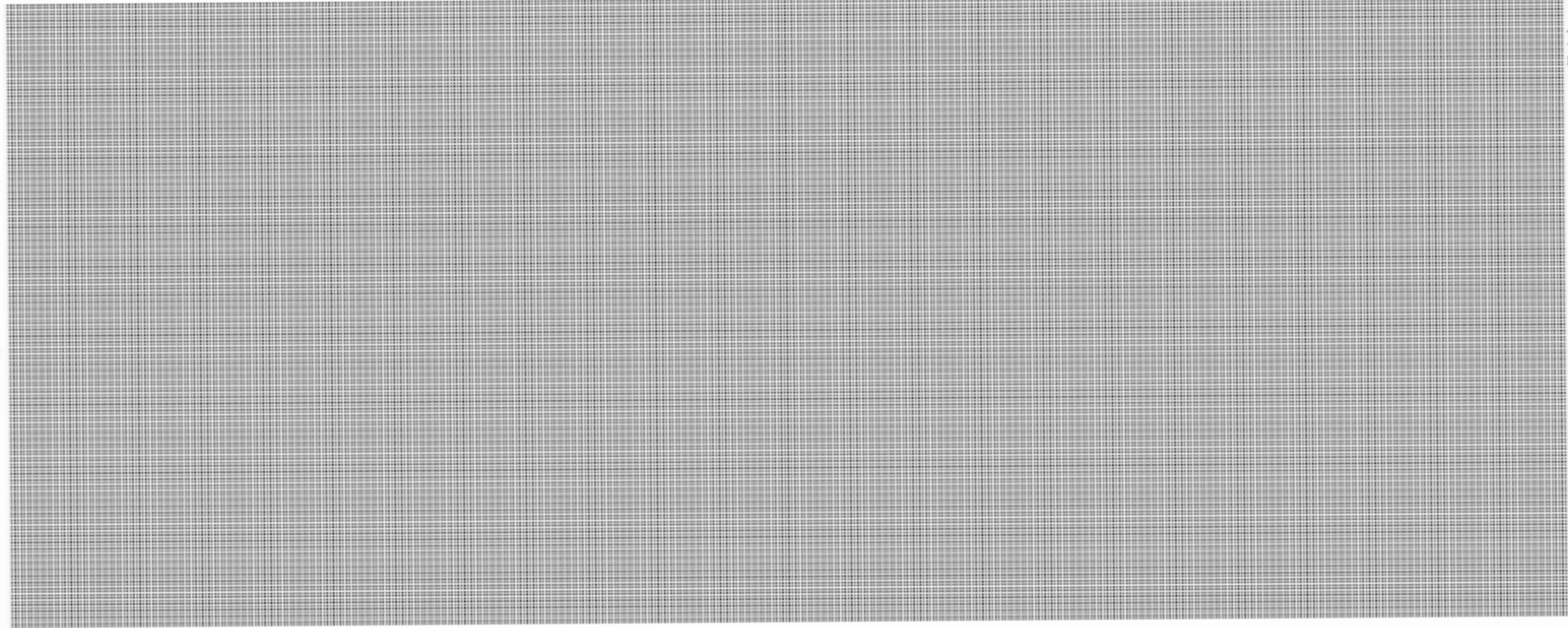
1 dot
.

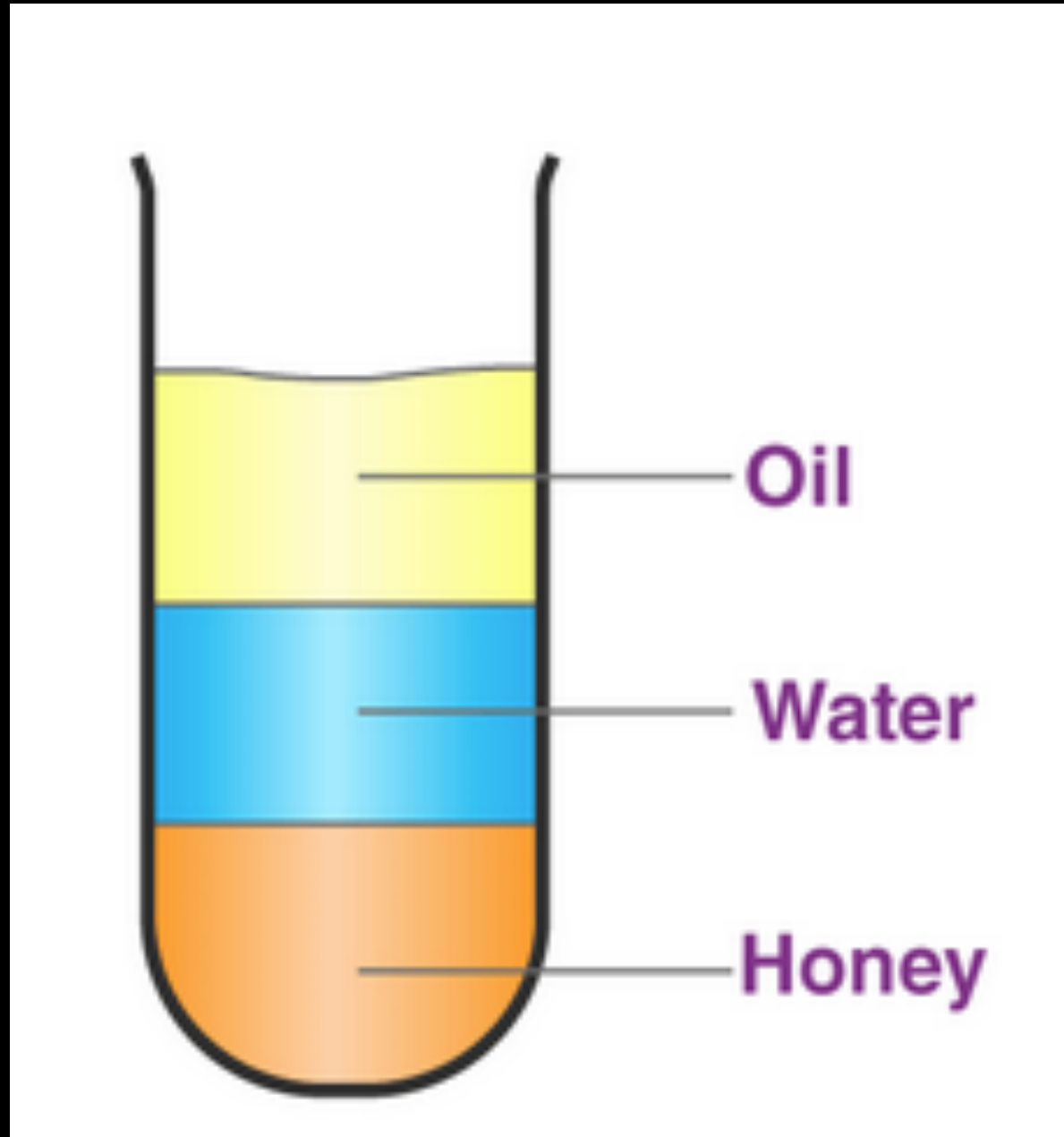
10 dots
.....

100 dots


1000 dots

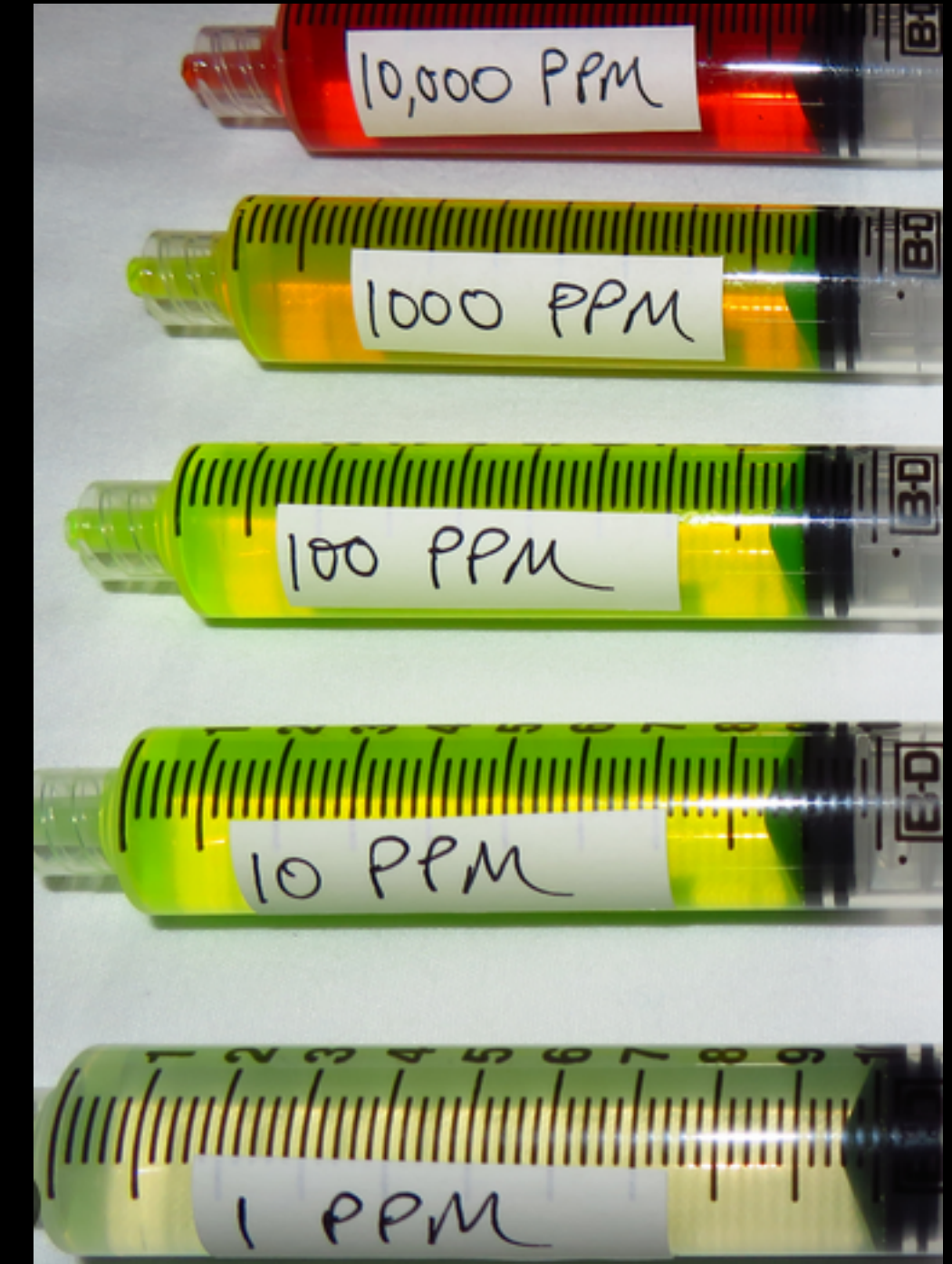

10,000 dots

waitbutwhy.com

100,000 dots

waitbutwhy.com



Density=mass/volume

Proportion/Ratios



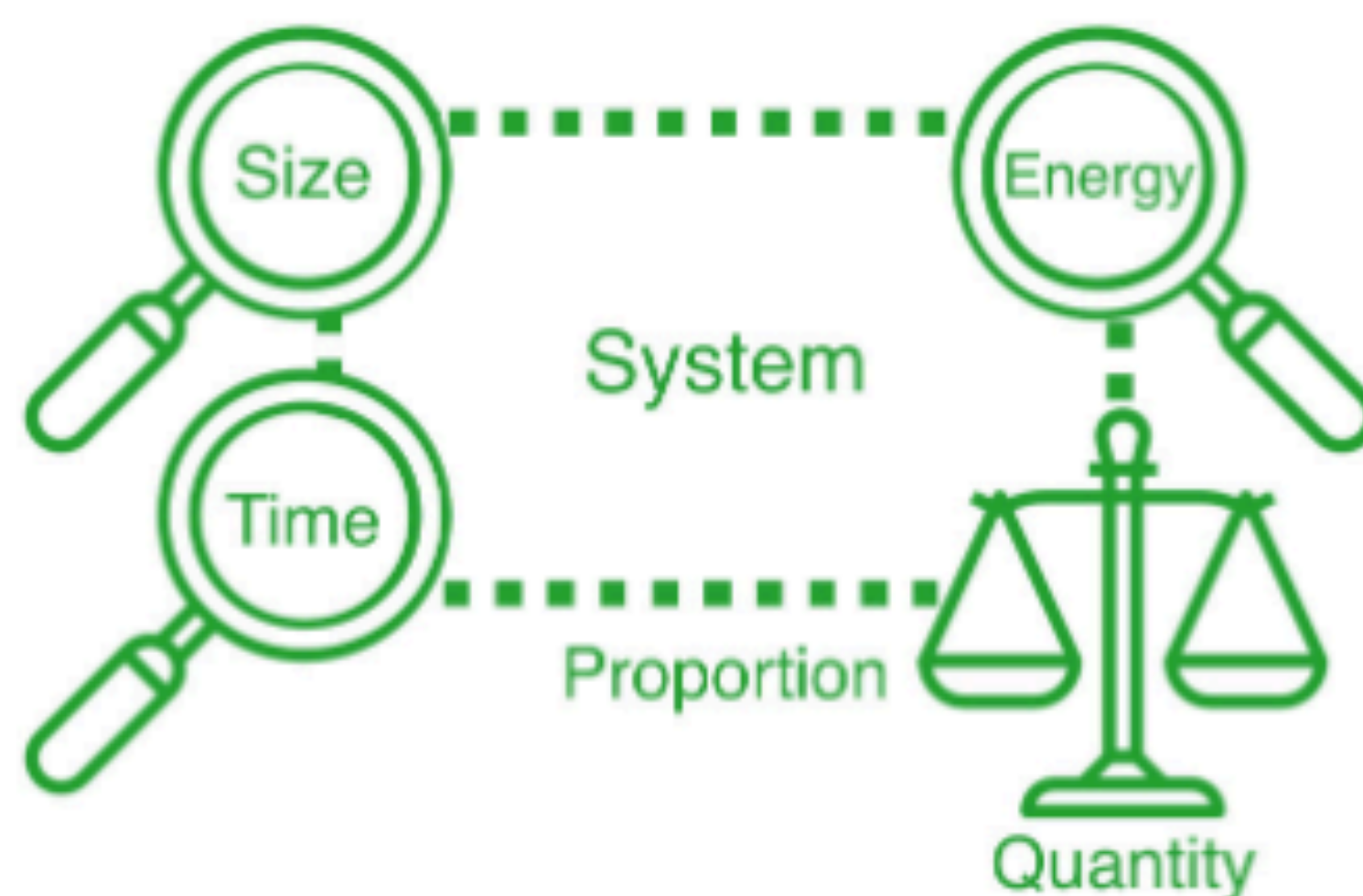
Parts per million

Scale, Proportion, and Quantity

It is critical to recognize what is relevant at different size, time, and energy scales, and to recognize proportional relationships between different quantities as scales change.

Framing Questions

- What aspects of the system may be relevant at different time, size, and energy scales?
- How do different quantities vary at different scales?
- What measurements could be made to describe the system more precisely?
- What proportional relationships can be observed?





Systems
System Models



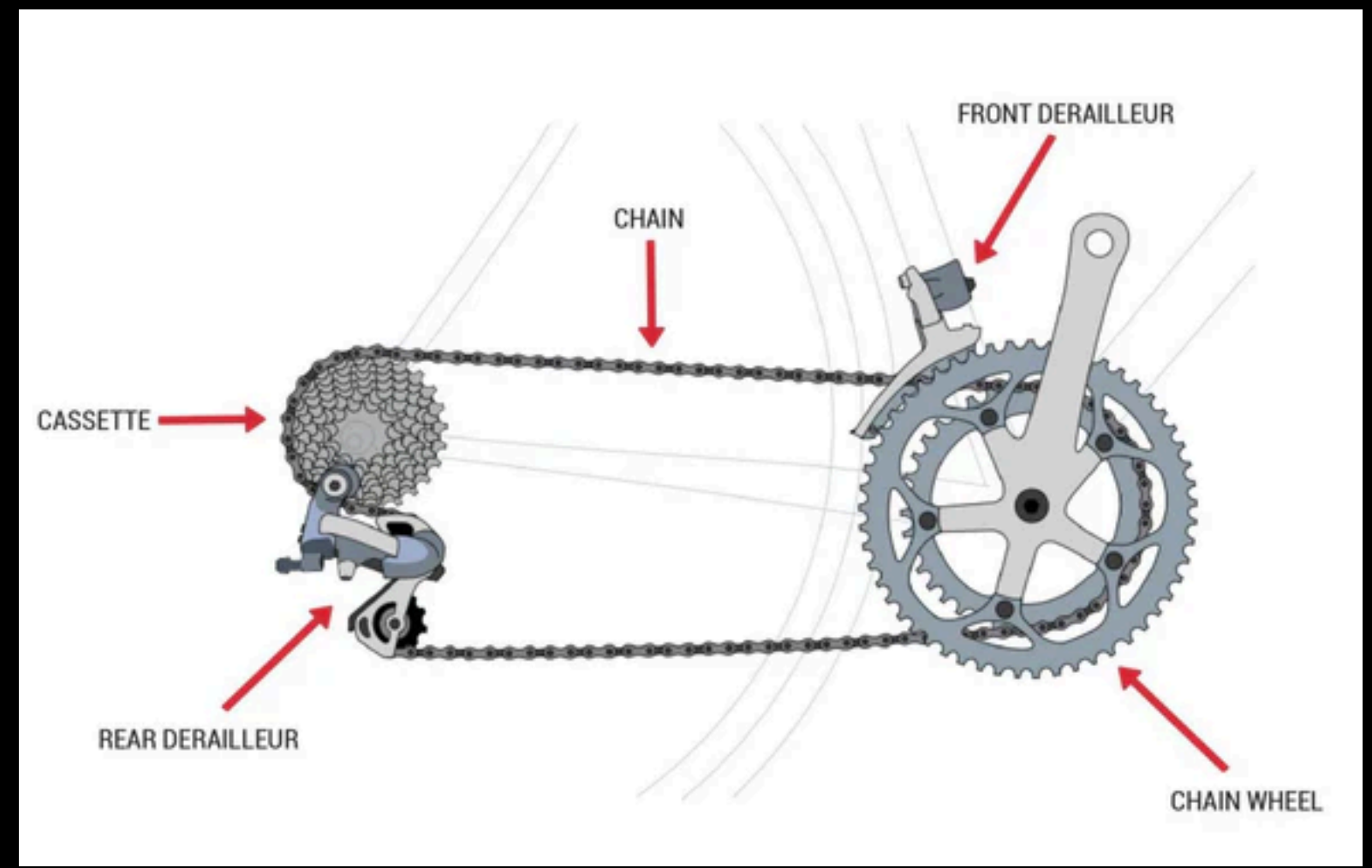
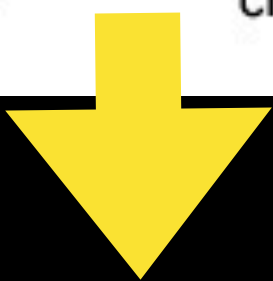
Inputs →

Boundaries

Energy/Matter

Outputs →



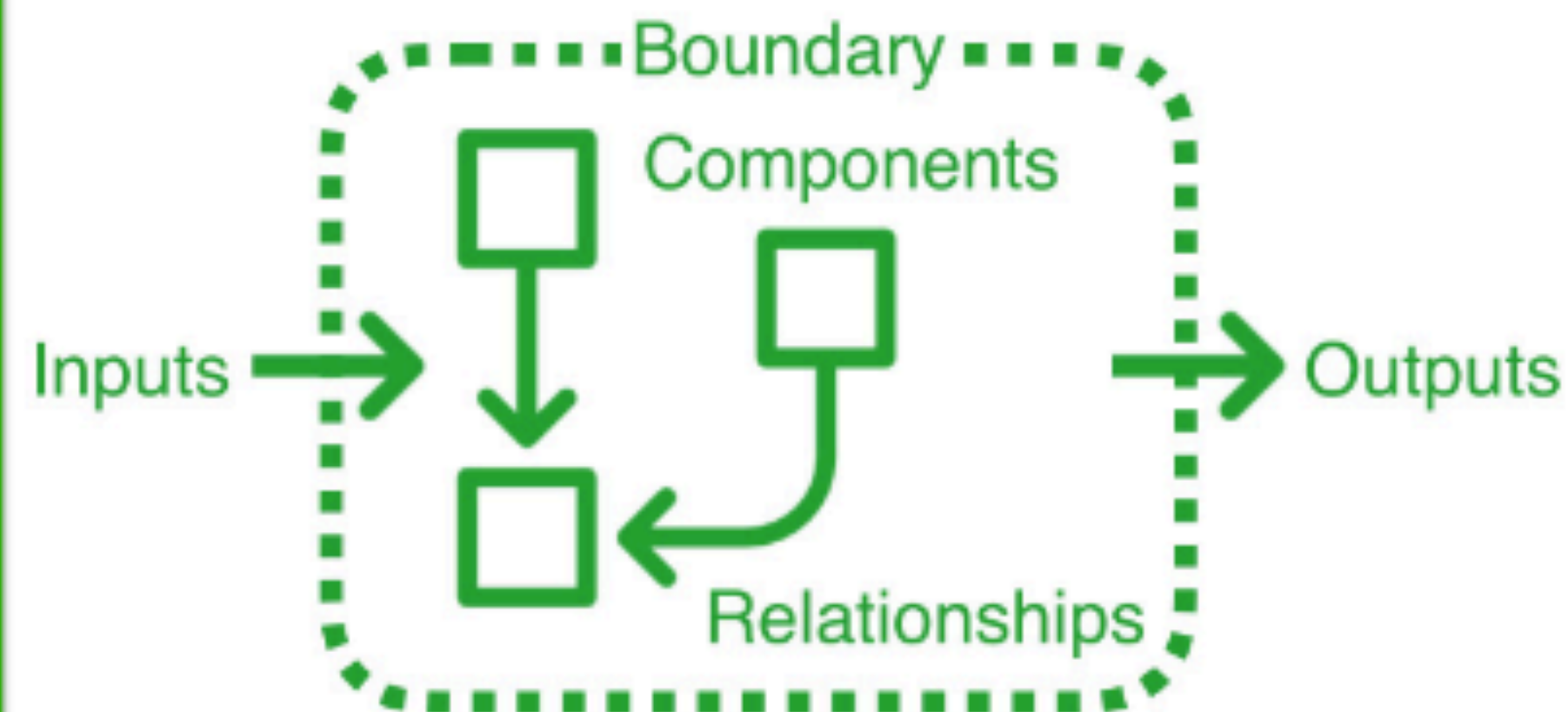


Systems and System Models

A system is an organized group of related objects or components. Models can be used for understanding and predicting the behavior of systems.

Framing Questions

- What is included in the system? What is external?
- What are the components of the system and how are they related?
- What are the inputs and outputs of the system?
- What predictions can be made from a system model?
- What are the limits of the system model?





Energy Matter

What Is Matter?

Matter is anything that has mass and takes up space.

SOLID



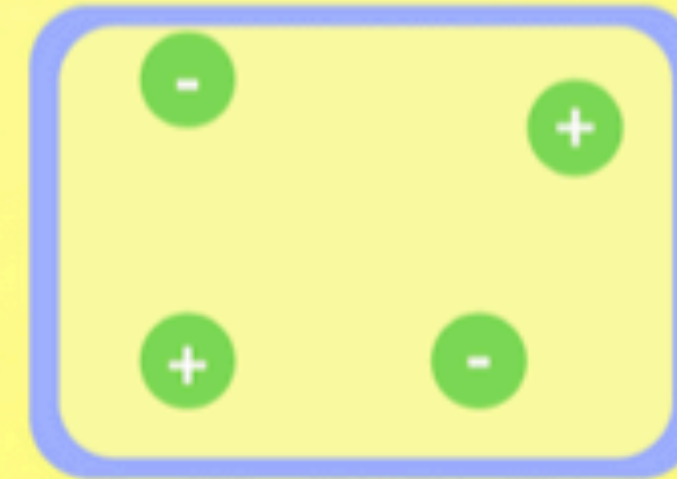
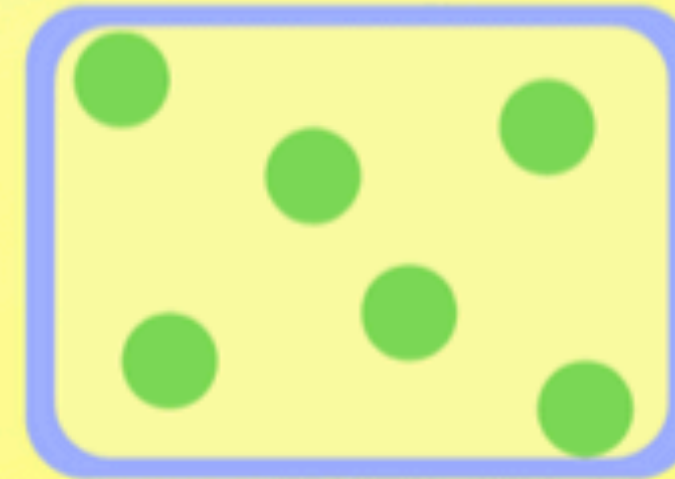
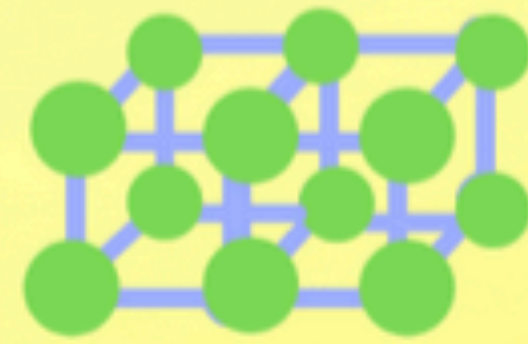
LIQUID



GAS



PLASMA

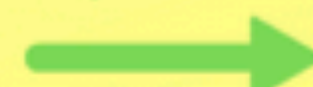


freezing



melting

condensation



vaporization

deionization



ionization

What Is Energy?

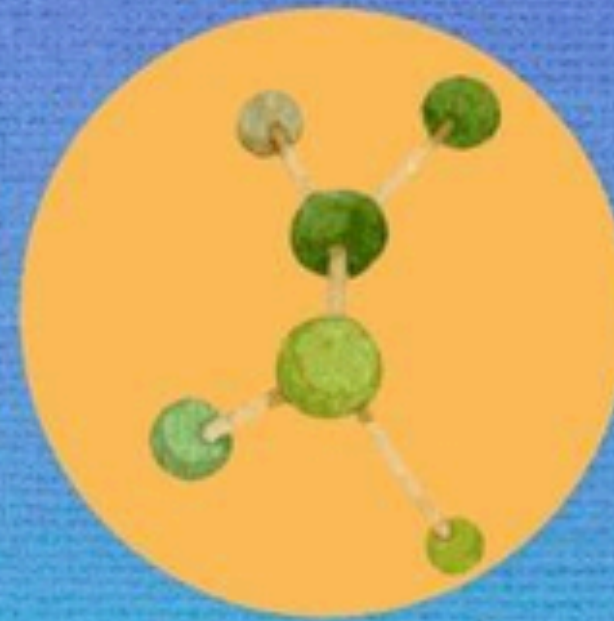
Energy is the ability to do work or heat objects.



Electrical
Energy



Mechanical
Energy



Chemical
Energy



Gravitational
Energy



Radiant
Energy



Nuclear
Energy



Magnetic
Energy

sciencenotes.org

Energy Conversion



Chemical



Mechanical



Chemical



Light



Electrical



Light



Chemical



Mechanical



Light



Chemical



Electrical



Heat

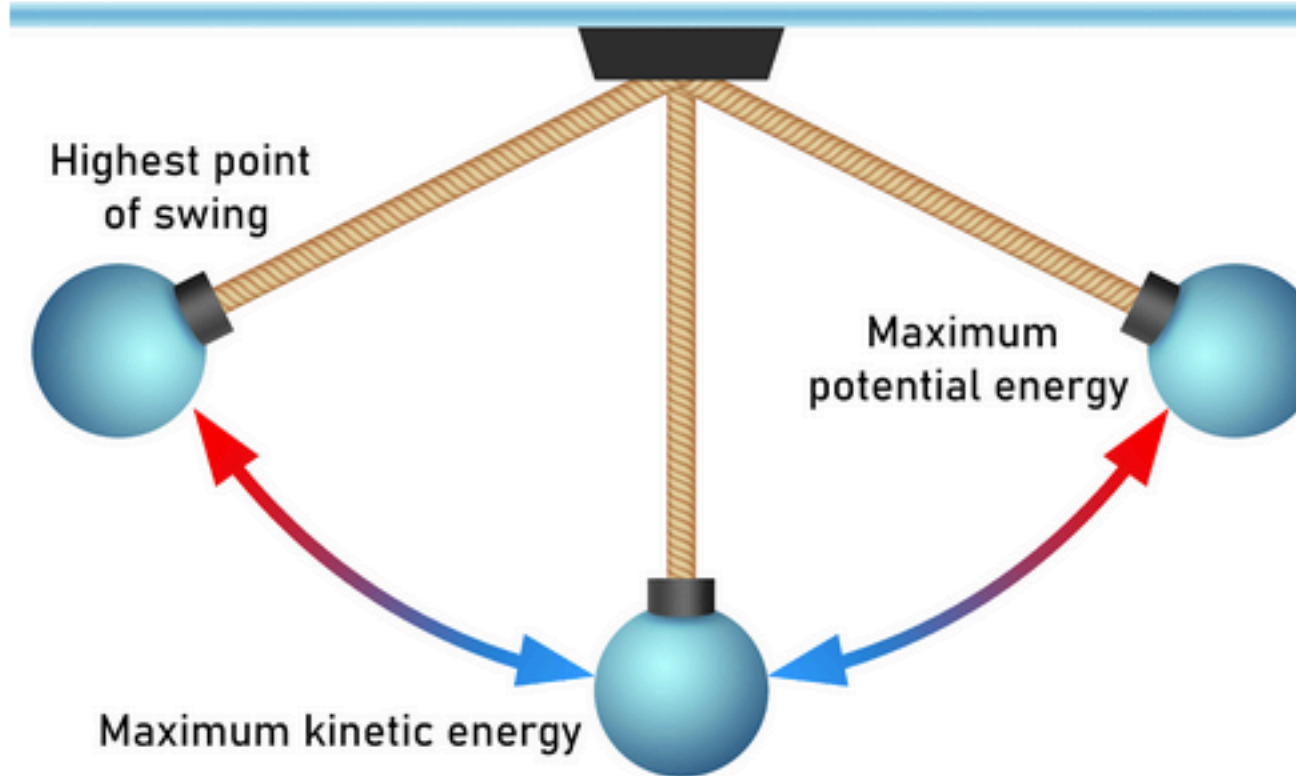
Law of Conservation of Matter (Mass)

Regardless of how substances within a closed system are changed, the **total mass remains the same.**

Law of Conservation of Energy

Energy cannot be created or destroyed but only changed from one form to another.

CONSERVATION OF ENERGY



Conservation of momentum in pendulum

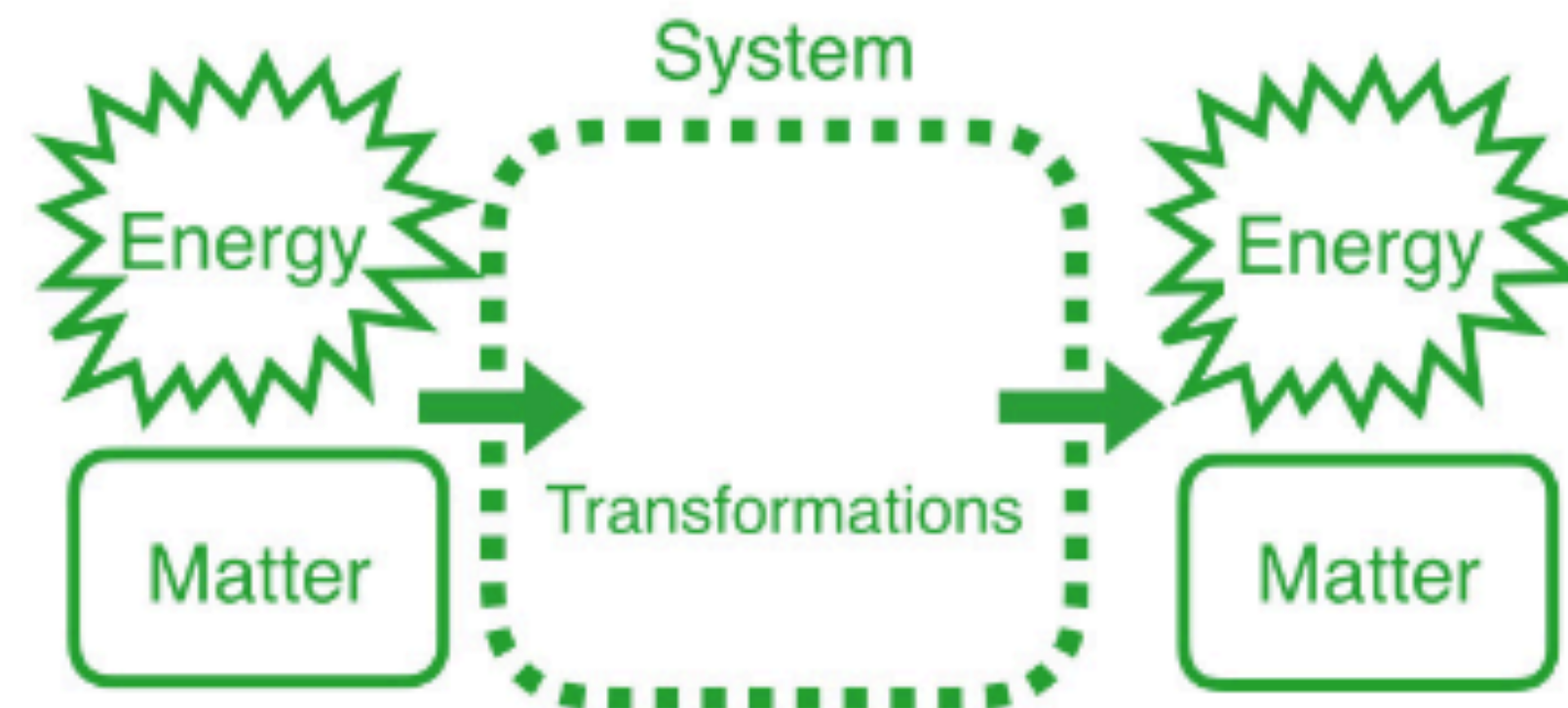
Image Courtesy [tang90246](#)

Energy and Matter

Tracking energy and matter flows, into, out of, and within systems.

Framing Questions

- What matter flows into, out of, and within the system?
- What physical and chemical changes occur in the system?
- What transformations of energy are important in the system?
- How does the flow of energy drive the movement of matter in the system?
- How are energy and matter conserved in the system?





Structure Function

STRUCTURE

What does it look like?

What is it made of?

FUNCTION

What does it do?

What is its job?



STRUCTURE

What does it look like?

What is it made of?

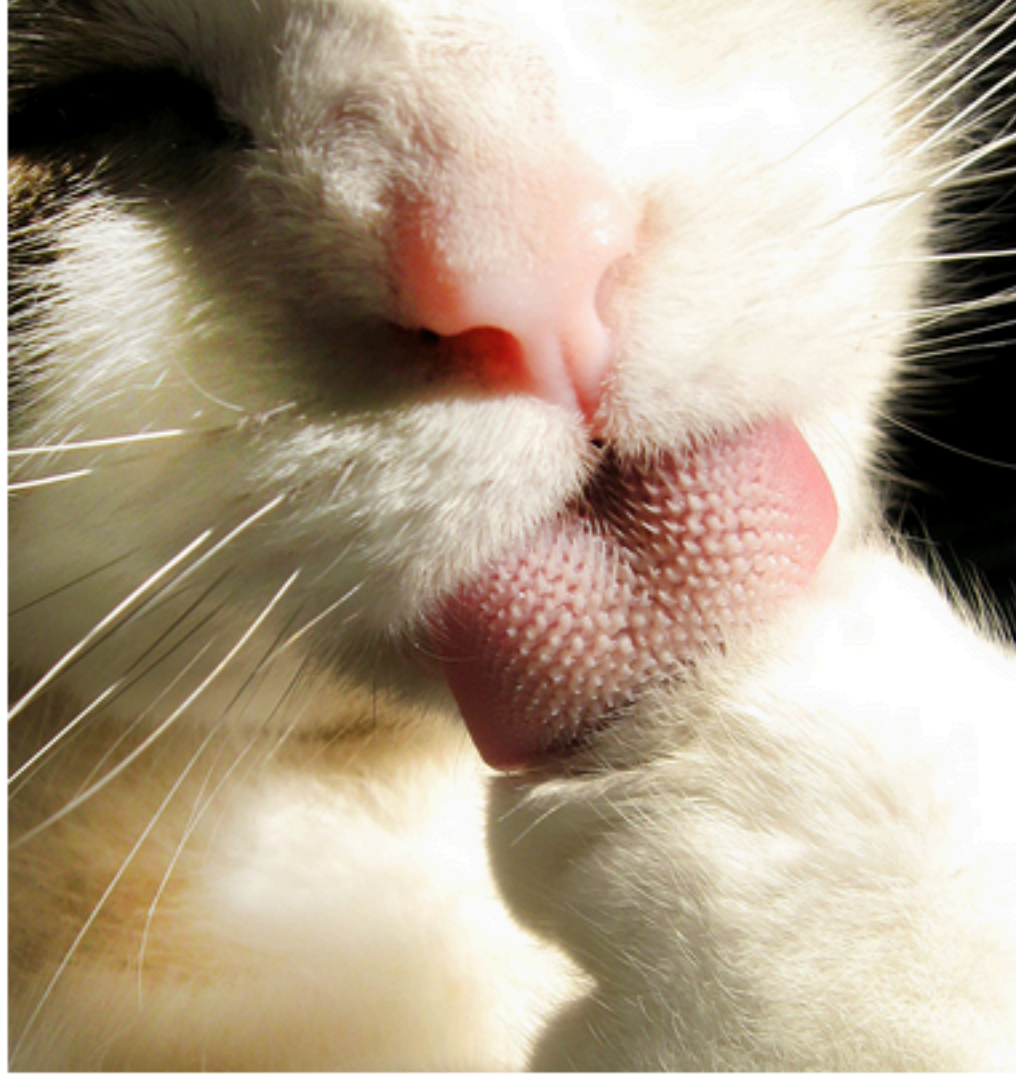
FUNCTION

What does it do?

What is its job?



Cat's tongue



A cat's tongue has small barbs, called papillae, that make it easier for the feline to remove meat from the bones and tissues of the small prey they capture. The tongue is also used for effective grooming, which is actually a survival skill. After a cat devours its prey, it grooms itself in order to remove any lingering evidence of the kill, so as not to attract larger predators to the scent. Whether a cat is cleaning prey or cleaning itself, the tongue is able to do most of the work due to its barbed form.



HETEROCERCAL TAIL
• Fast swimmer
• Constantly moving



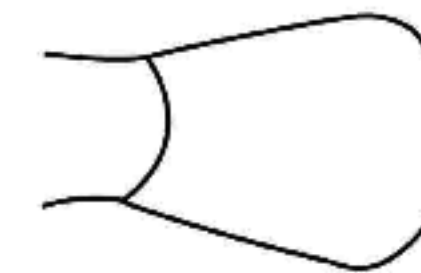
FORKED TAIL
• Fast swimmer



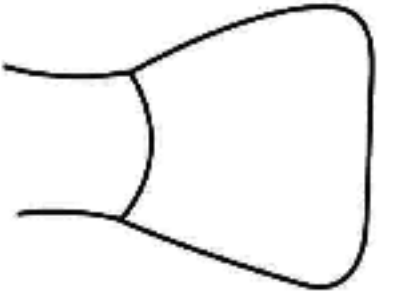
LUNATE TAIL
• Long distance swimmer



POINTED TAIL
• Slow swimmer
• Bottom wriggler

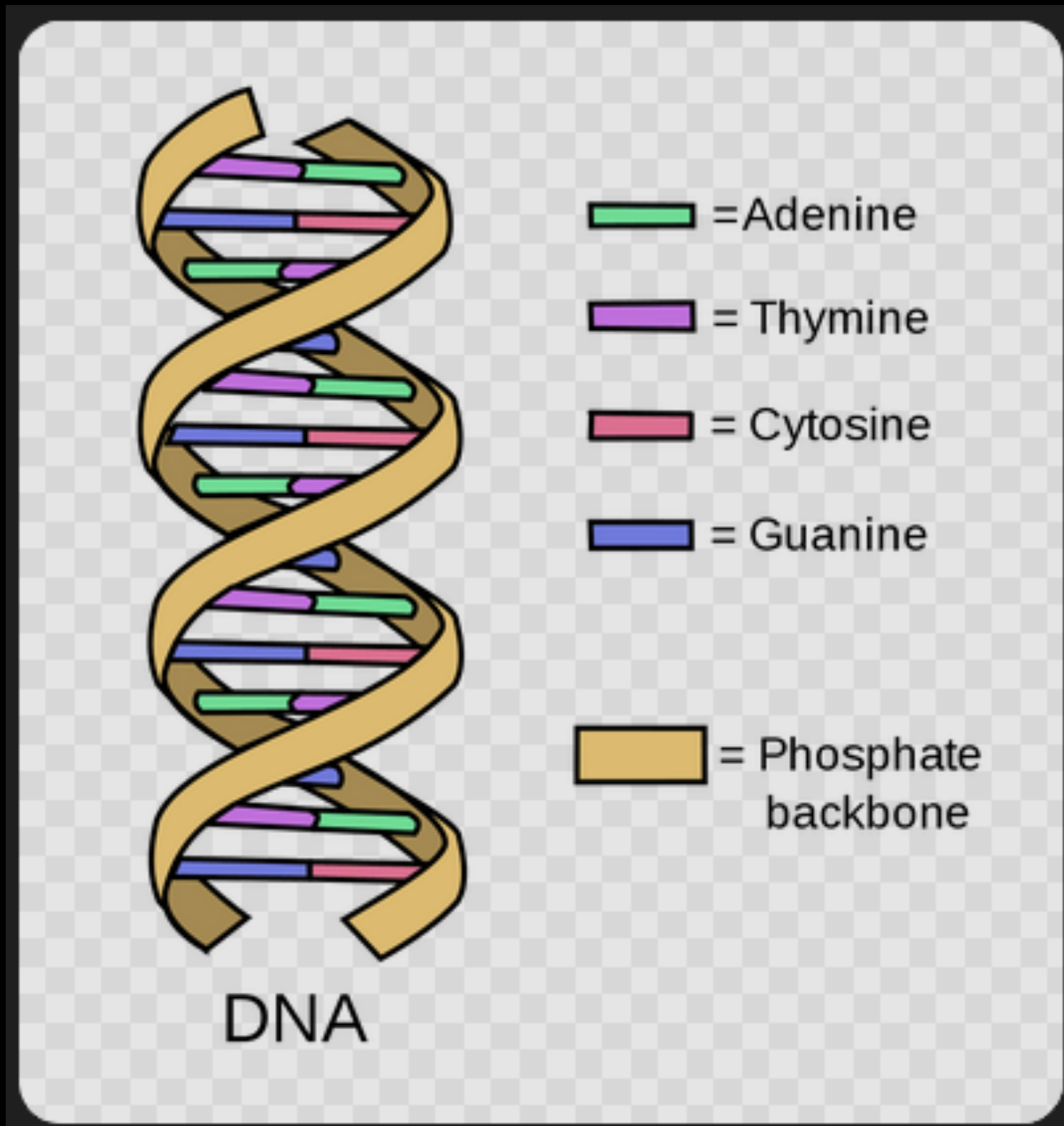


ROUNDED TAIL
• Good at turning
• Fast for short distances



TRUNCATE TAIL
• Good at turning
• Slower swimmer





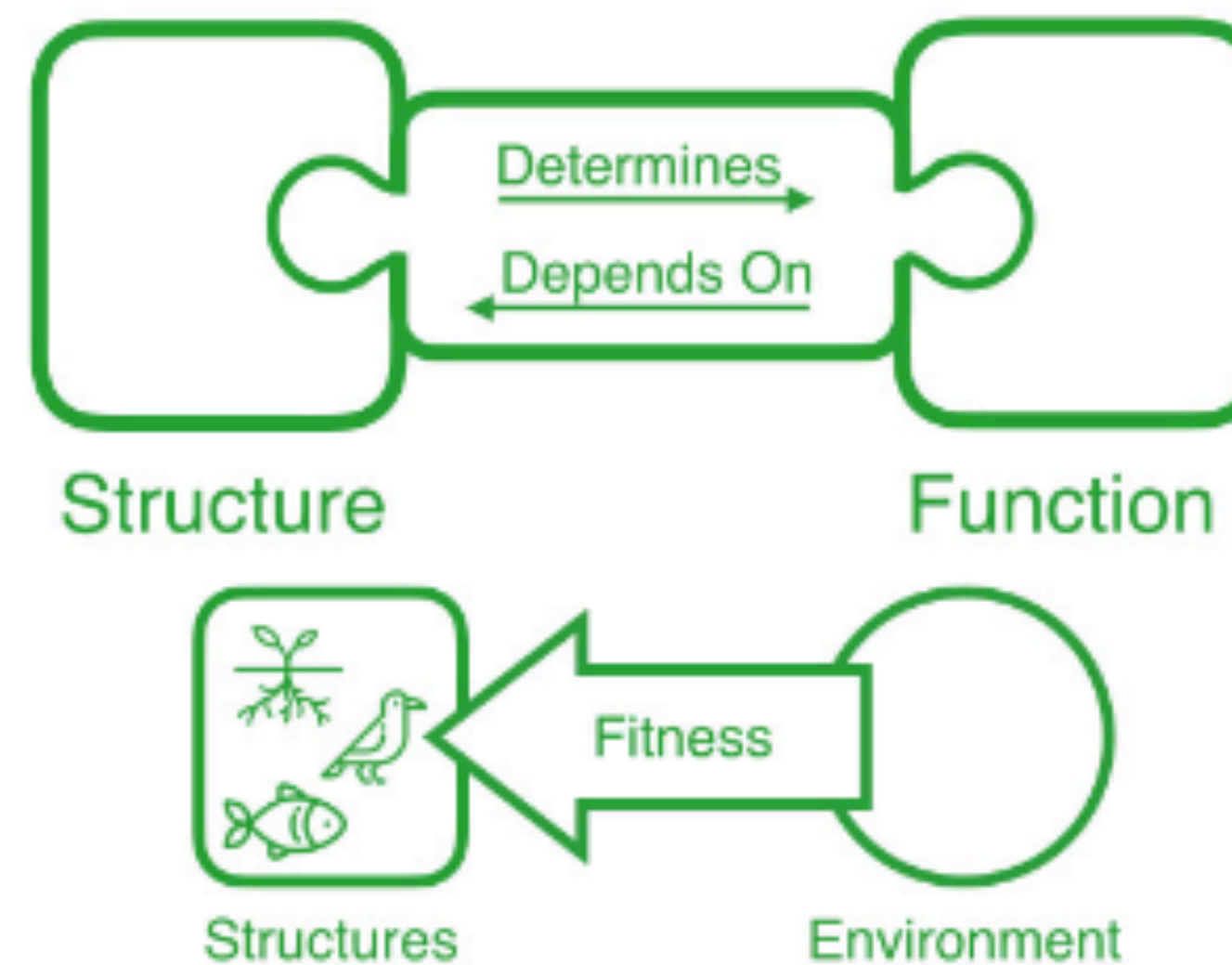
- ■ Adenine (A) always pairs with ■ Thymine (T).
- ■ Guanine (G) always pairs with ■ Cytosine (C).

Structure and Function

The way an object is shaped or structured determines many of its properties and functions.

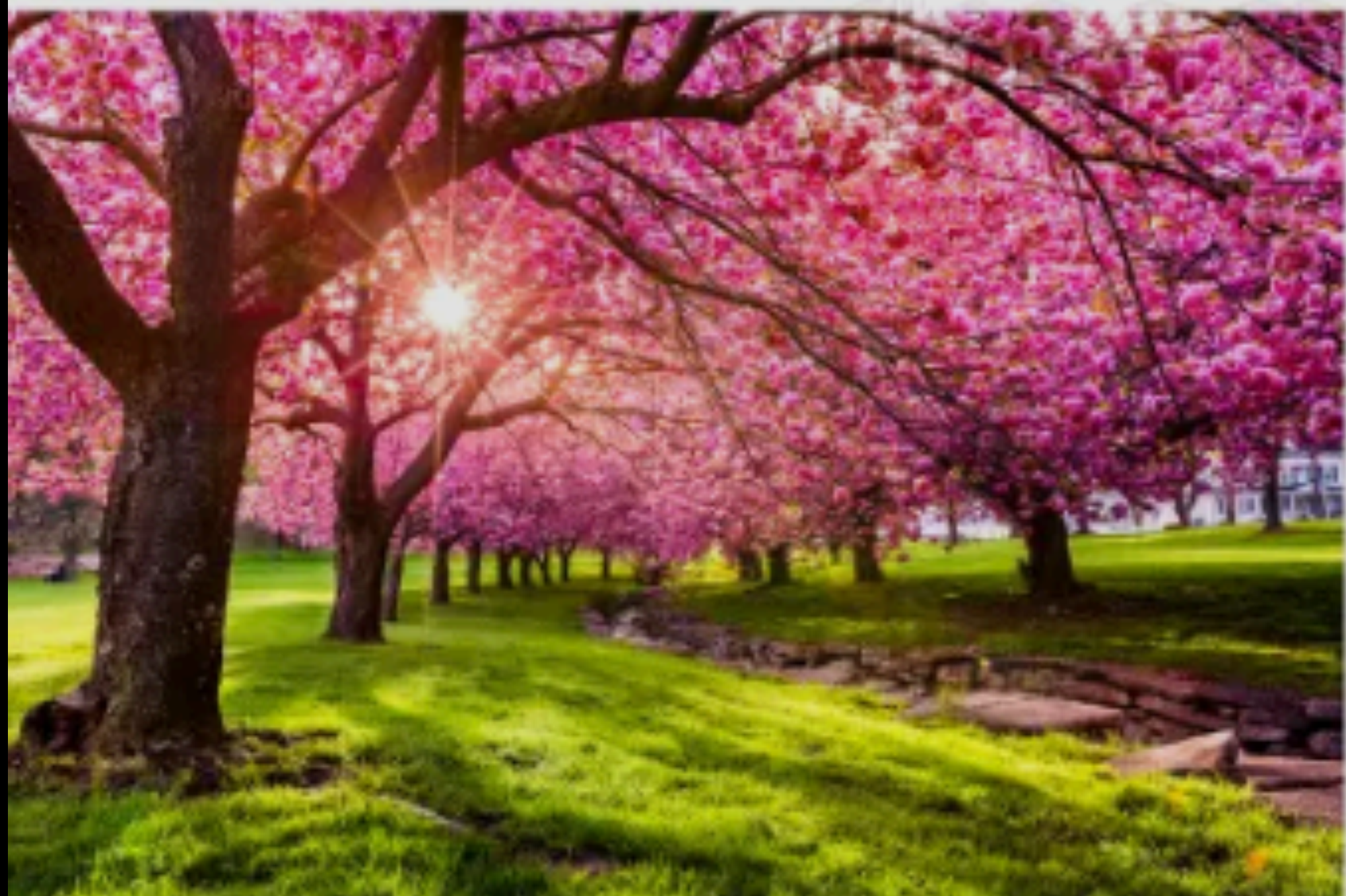
Framing Questions

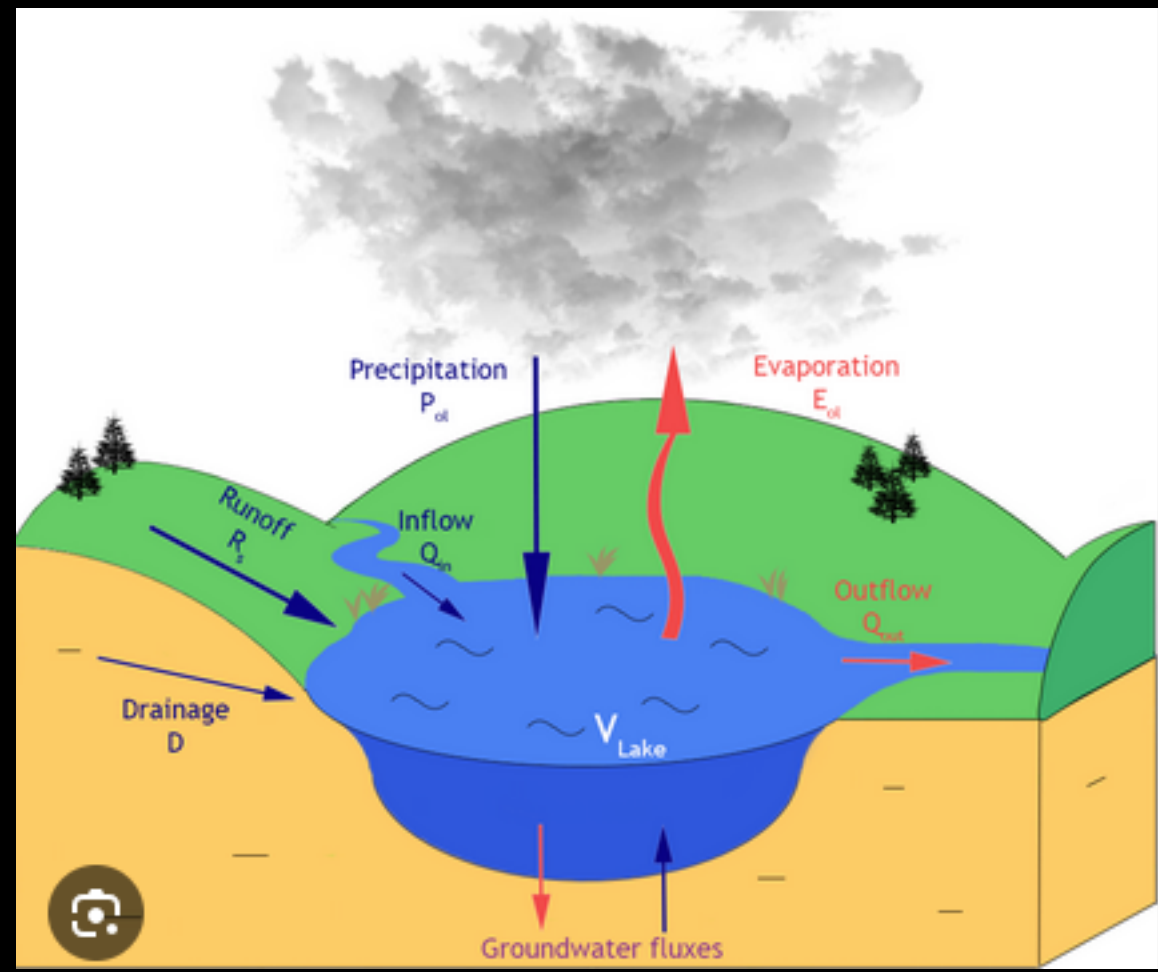
- What shapes or structures are observed in the system at this scale?
- What roles do these structures play in the functioning of the system?
- How do the structures support the functions?
- How does the environment affect the fitness of organisms with specific structures?







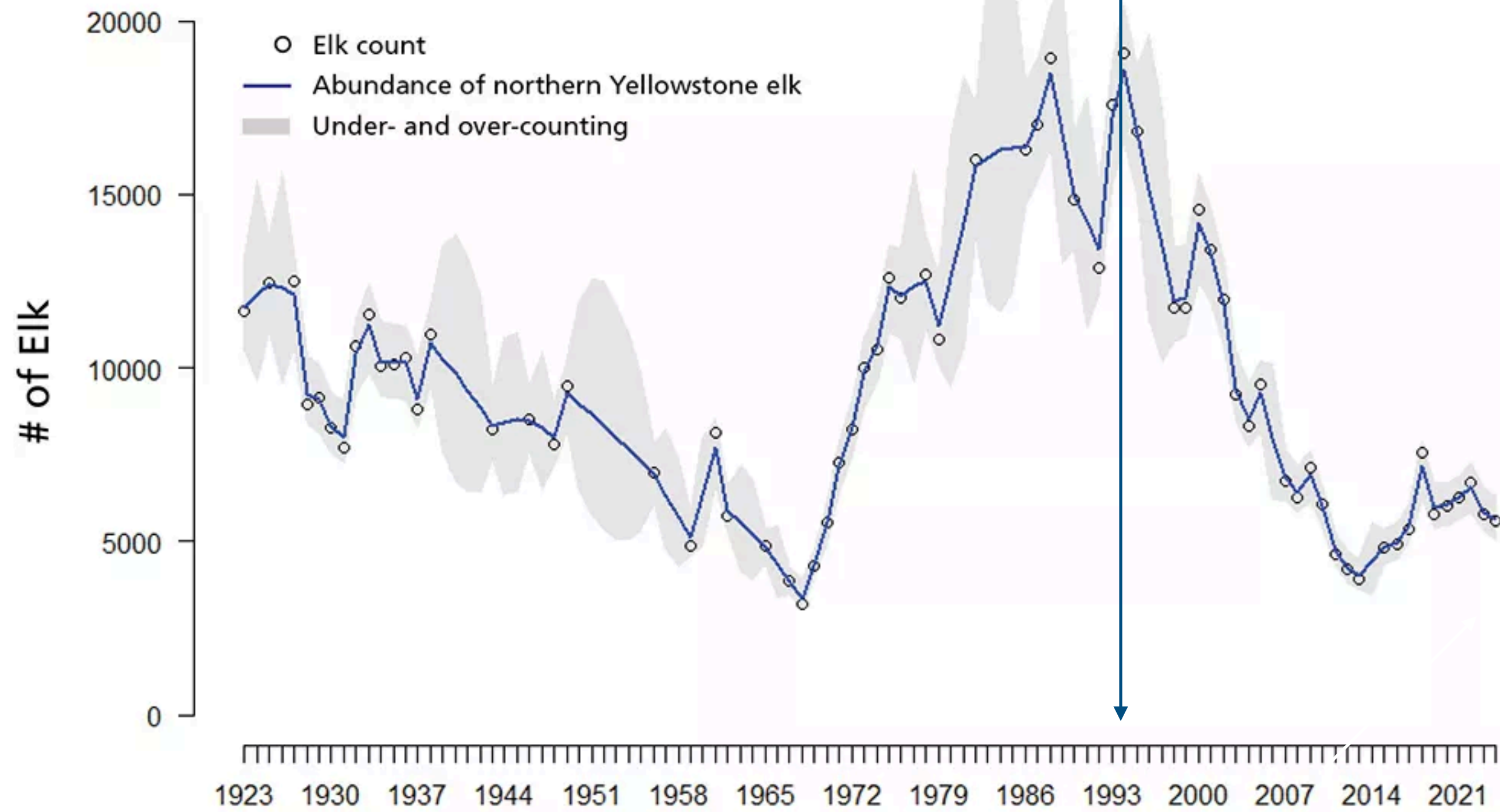




<https://gmd.copernicus.org/articles/14/1309/2021/>



<https://outsidebozeman.com/trails-tours/hiking-trails/hyalite-creek-trail>



Abundance of the northern Yellowstone elk population, 1923–2024. Shaded area indicates uncertainty about the trend with respect to random under- and overcounting. These results underestimate the true population size because they do not account for imperfect sightability.

Data from the Northern Yellowstone Cooperative Wildlife Working Group



Stability and Change

Conditions that affect stability and factors that control rates of change are critical elements to consider and understand in natural systems.

Framing Questions

- Under what range of conditions does the system operate effectively?
- What changes in conditions cause changes in its stable operation?
- What changes in conditions could cause the system to become unstable or fail?
- What feedback loops in the operation of the system enhance its range of stable operations?





Thank you



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What Is Energy?

Energy is the ability to do work or heat objects.

- Electrical Energy
- Mechanical Energy
- Chemical Energy
- Gravitational Energy
- Radiant Energy
- Nuclear Energy
- Magnetic Energy

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