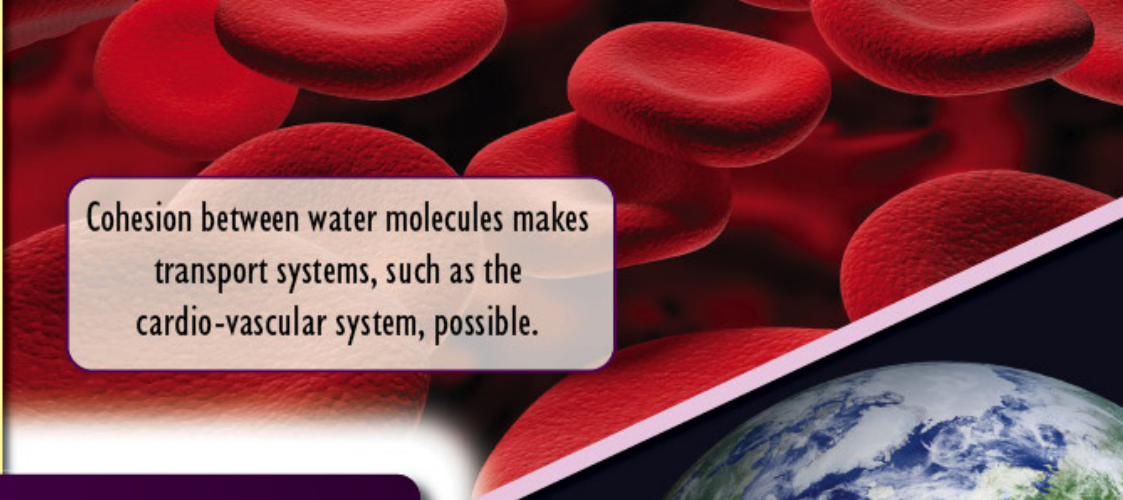
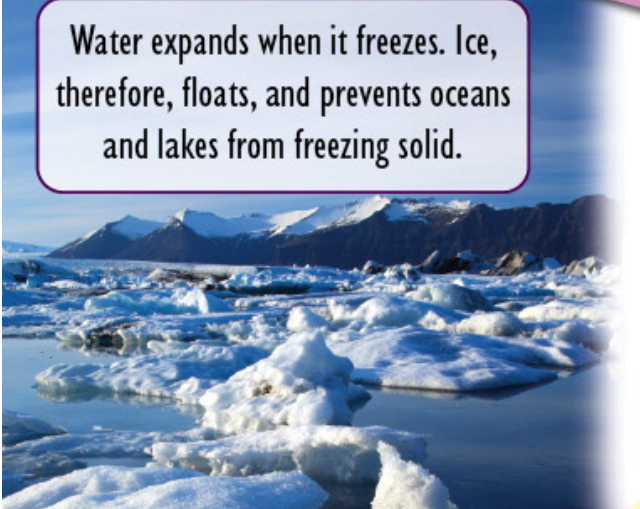


Because water is such a good solvent, the reactions on which life depend, such as respiration or DNA replication, can take place in solution inside cells.




Cohesion between water molecules makes transport systems, such as the cardio-vascular system, possible.



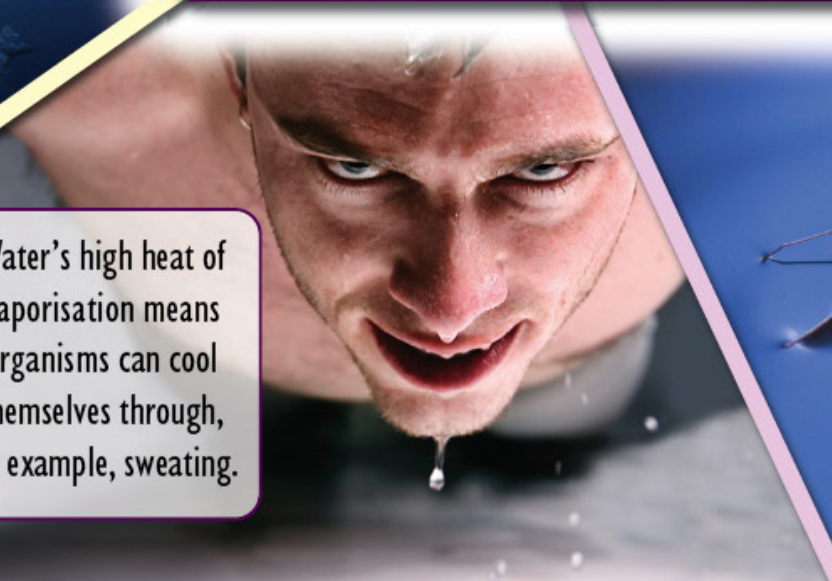
Water expands when it freezes. Ice, therefore, floats, and prevents oceans and lakes from freezing solid.

Water and Life


Water's unique properties depend on the hydrogen bonds that form between adjacent water molecules. Without these bonds, there would be no Life on Earth.



Water's high specific heat stabilises the temperature of the planet, keeping it within the limits that are possible for life.



Water's high heat of vaporisation means organisms can cool themselves through, for example, sweating.



Water's high surface tension creates habitats for organisms.