

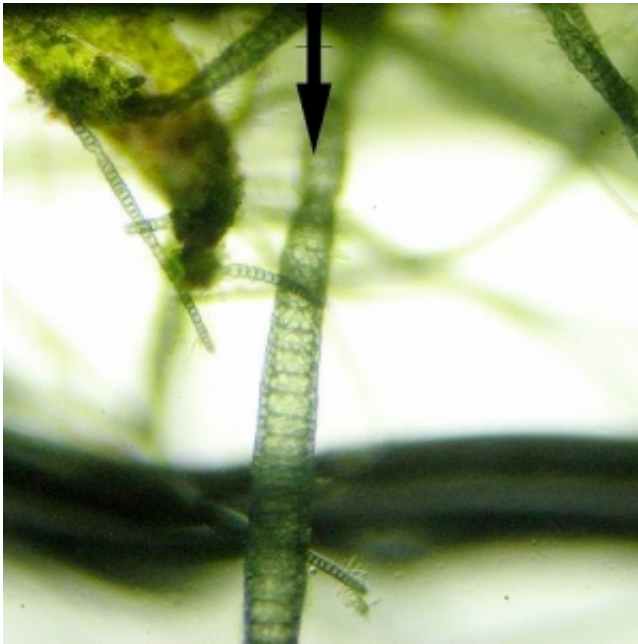


# The Top 10 Oldest Living Things on Earth

You could probably nitpick some of these life forms within a million years here, a million years there... but the fact remains that these animals have been around a LONG @#\$\$% time. They've achieved apparent perfection in their environment. Millennia have passed and they keep on keeping on. Sure, a tail might shorten, an extra tentacle might grow, or a more streamlined coat of armor.... but, like that guy you know with the haircut he's had since high school, these animals have asked themselves the question: why change it if it's working? These are the oldest living things on the planet, and they just might still be here long after we are nothing more than fossils found buried in a pile of styrofoam take-out boxes.

Rank ▼ Name

## 1 Cyanobacteria



2.8 billion years

Cyanobacteria are considered to be among the first life forms on Earth. The first ones lived on sulfates and methane that was abundant in Earth's early atmosphere. Today's cyanobacteria are practically identical to the originals. They have survived every major extinction event including the Permian extinction that killed 90 percent of the species at that time.

## 2 Nautilus

500 million years

The "living fossil". The nautilus is the only shelled cephalopod. Long ago they were more varied and far more prosperous, but today there are only six species of nautilus, all limited to the Indo-Pacific. Still, way to hang in there, pal.



### 3 Jellyfish



505 Million Years

Jellyfish belong to the group of animals called Cnidaria or Coelenterata. This group includes corals, hydras, jellyfish, Portuguese men-of-war, sea anemones, sea pens, sea whips, and sea fans. They are hard to fossilize, being made of mostly water, but a few years ago some new fossils were found that make them even older than previously thought.

### 4 Sponge

580 Million Years

Sponges are from an ancient animal group whose lineage can be traced back to the beginnings of animal life. Fossils of glass sponges have been found from around 540 million years ago in rocks in Australia, China and Mongolia. Although about 90% of modern sponges are demosponges, fossilized remains of this type are less common than those of other types because their skeletons are composed of relatively soft spongin that does not fossilize well.



## 5 Horseshoe Crab



445 Million Years

The ole Horseshoe has remained pretty much unchanged since the Ordovician period. So, it's existed on Earth for about 74% of the time that animals in general have. The earliest horseshoe crab species were crawling around the Earth's shallow coastal seas for at least 100 million years before the dinosaurs even arrived.

**Nenita Golds**

The Top 10 Oldest Living Things on Earth at 7/09/2012 4:30 AM

thanks for touching on oldest animal on earth.

**Josh**

The Top 10 Oldest Living Things on Earth at 2/20/2012 5:30 AM

90% would be wrong is should be 84% of the creatures or again Land And Most top to middle water fish / Sharks Go down 350+ feet into the black depth and see how much more wild life has been there for at least another 650+ million years. Also if you go down in A sub and you have no lights you will go blind within a few weeks due to you can't see our eyes are not made for Darkness or shall i say pitch black you can't adapt to it your eyes need a little bit of light to see. there are sharks that have seen and are still alive i little after or before the horse shoe crab was found i forget.

**Triopsman**

The Top 10 Oldest Living Things on Earth at 6/19/2011 7:32 AM

The horseshoe shrimp's proper name is actually Triops cancriformis

**Vinnie**

The Top 10 Oldest Living Things on Earth at 9/15/2010 10:00 AM

Interesting list. Thanks. Where would the Wollemi Pine rate? There was a lot of fuss about it when it was rediscovered?