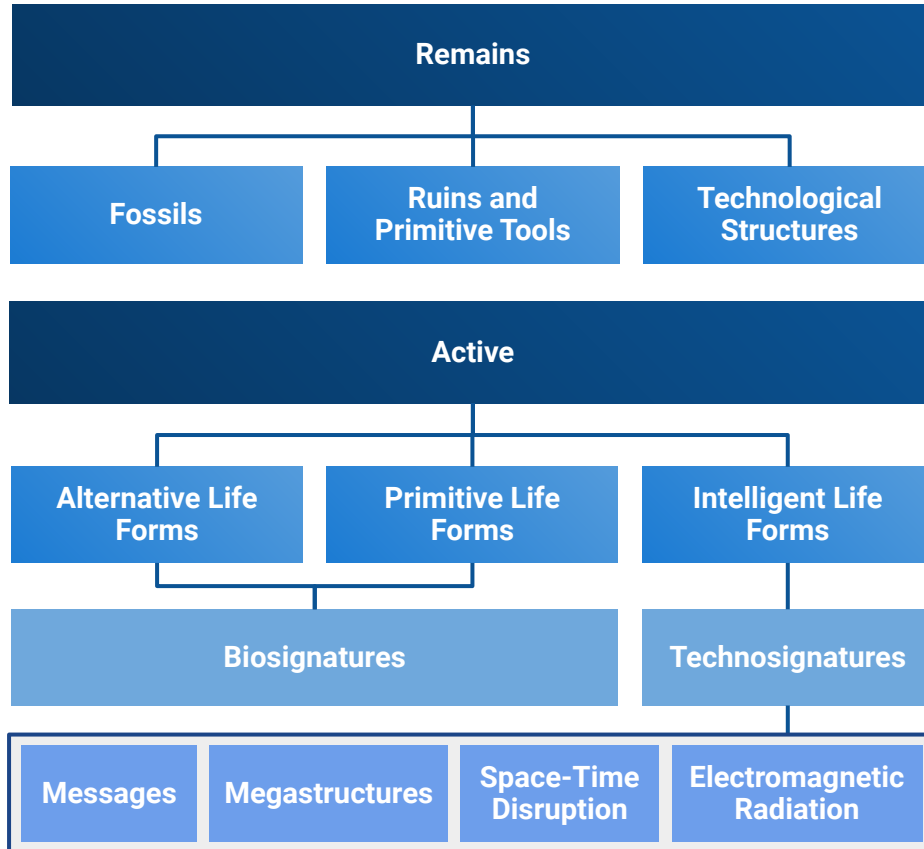


Object of Research Framework Prototype



NASA's astrobiology research focuses on three fundamental issues:

- How does life start and progress?
- Does the universe include life in any other forms?
- What is ahead for life on Earth and in the universe?

Astrobiologists have found a wealth of hints to these 'big questions' over the past 50 years.

To provide a solution to these concerns, it is necessary to combine insights from other scientific fields. Thus, scientists from astronomy, chemistry, planetary sciences, geology, earth science, biology, and many other fields are involved in NASA's Astrobiology program.

Astrobiology is the study of how life evolved from the 'star stuff'. Astrobiology is making major contributions to planetary science missions such as the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) – NASA's first astrobiology mission to Mars – as they focus more and more on exploring potentially habitable environments in our Solar System.