Viruses are not considered one of the kingdoms of living organisms. They are not composed of cells, but are each a small piece of genetic material surrounded by a protein coat. Viruses come in a variety of shapes. They can be shaped like rods, cubes, or even tadpoles.

Viruses cannot reproduce by themselves, but must infect living cells. The host reproduces the genetic material of the virus and produces more viruses. Sometimes viruses coexist peacefully with their hosts, and sometimes they cause disease.



Issues Life Science

## Classification Card **F**

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