

## Did Life Have a **Hot** or **Cold** Start?

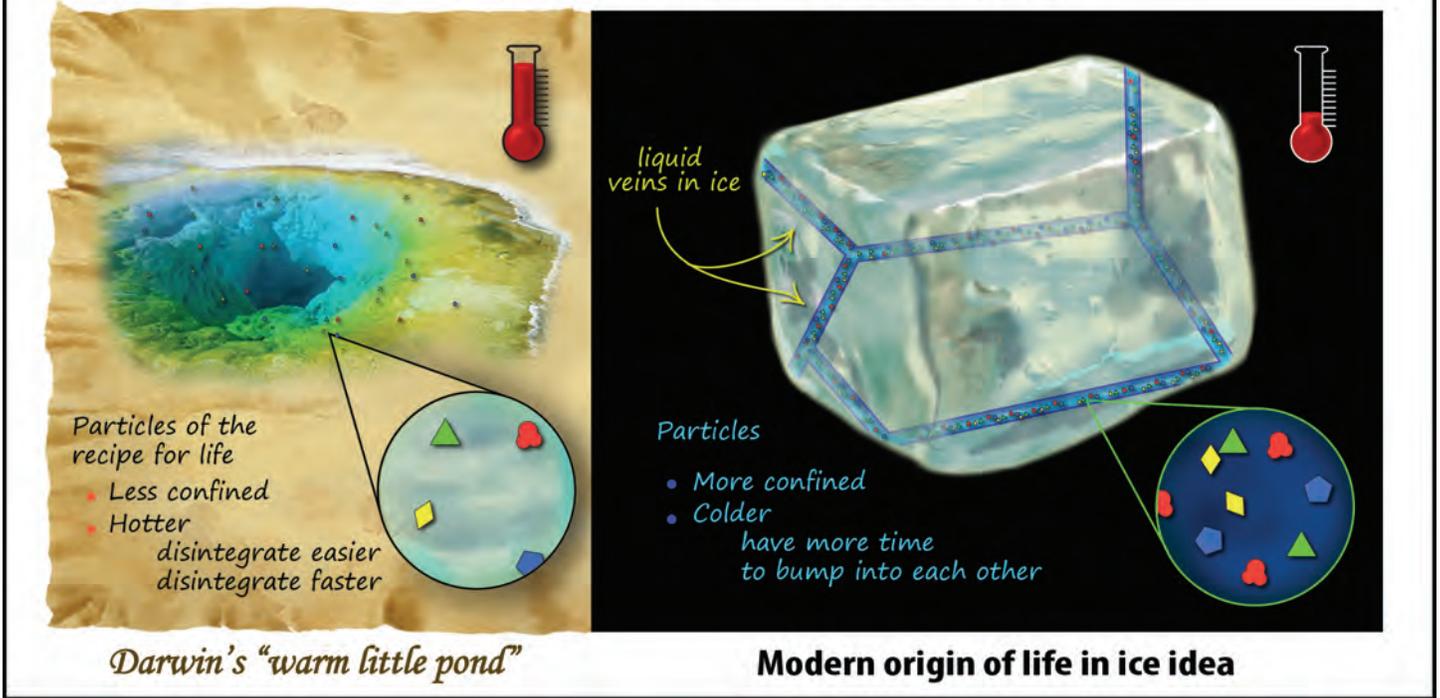


Illustration by Zina Deretsky, National Science Foundation

Darwin proposed the theory that life might have originated in a "warm little pond." Today, some scientists study a contrasting theory that life originated in ice. Liquid veins that form in blocks of ice could have been an ideal spot for life to form, as they afford little elbow room for tiny, potentially life-generating particles to spread out, but a lot of time for chemical interaction.