

INVESTIGATION QUESTION

Why did bilateral symmetry become the dominant body plan for complex animals?

HYPOTHESIS

Hint: try writing it as "If ____, then ____, because ____."

Symmetry Sorting Table

Animal	Type of Symmetry	Has Head/Tail?	Typical Lifestyle (predator/filter feeder/etc.)
Jellyfish			
Sea anemone			
Starfish			
Flatworm			
Human			
Fish			

ANALYSIS

What pattern do you notice between symmetry type and how an animal finds food?

CONCLUSION

Why might bilateral symmetry have been a major advantage when predators first appeared during the Cambrian Explosion?

CONNECT IT

Look up Dickinsonia, an Ediacaran organism. Scientists have debated for decades whether it was an animal, fungus, or something else. What evidence has been used on each side?

THINK FURTHER

Humans have bilateral symmetry. What would your daily life look like if you had radial symmetry instead?

ADDITIONAL NOTES