

## Vocabulary: Effect of Environment on New Life Form



### Vocabulary

- Controlled experiment – an experiment in which only one *variable* is changed at a time.
  - Generally, in a controlled experiment, all conditions are kept the same except for the variable being tested.
  - In some cases, it is impossible to perform a perfectly controlled experiment. For example, a scientist cannot perform a controlled experiment on animal behavior in the wild because there are too many uncontrollable variables, such as weather and the presence of other animals.
- Hypothesis – a tentative explanation that can be tested by doing experiments.
  - Hypotheses are often written as if/then statements. For example “If fertilizer is added to the soil, then the plants will grow more quickly.”
- Variable – a factor that can be changed in an experiment.