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Exoplanets and The Goldilocks zone

THE GOLDILOCKS ZONE

artist's concept

GOLDILOCKS ZONE

Part of the hunt for water on other worlds means looking for planets orbiting a certain distance from their stars. Planets in this zone are neither too hot, nor too cold conditions could be just right for liquid water.

Kepler-186f

CONDITIONS WHICH IMPROVE THE CHANCE FOR EXISTING LIFE

A BASIC CHECKLIST: For Enzymes: -Temperature -PH level

Nitrogen level
Oxygen level
Radiation levels
Abundance of carbon



#ExoplanetWeek

With our Galaxy having over 100,000,000 billion planets in our universe. It can be paradoxically quite hard where to look. So the area in space that we would want an ideal habitable planet to be found is in what we call 'The Goldilocks Zone', an area that is neither too cold, or too hot for life and has conditions which can sustain life.

- -Type of star that the planet orbits
- -Distance from star
- -Planet size and mass

HOW WE DETECT LIFE

Once calculations regarding planet size and orbit are complete, in order to show an exoplanet to be in the goldilocks zone and the right size, we can test the elements in the atmosphere with spectrography by seeing what colours are absorbed
 If there is a large amount of oxygen in the atmosphere and an abundance of another element that reacts with it, life is almost certain to be there
 Even without this, life is still possible with other atmospheric compositions



EXOPLANET

-A planet outside of our solar system that orbits a star

References: NASA Adelaide university



PROXIMA CENTAURI B

-The closest exoplanet to Earth, Proxima Centauri B is also a viable candidate for life not on this world -Being only 17% more massive than earth and orbiting in the goldilocks zone, it does look promising -However as it is tidally locked to its star's orbit, and its star is a flare star that could rip any atmosphere available off, it is highly unlikely that multicellular life would exist