

3 Theories of Virus Evolution

1. At one time, viral ancestors were cellular organisms that were parasitic (*feed off living organisms*) on other cells. Since they were parasites, they lost their cellular components (they didn't need them anymore).
2. At one time, viral ancestors were free living organisms having a structure **before** the first cells were formed. Later on, they became parasitic on the cells that evolved.
3. Viruses were once just fragments of genetic material that came from cellular organisms (left over parts). This is why viruses are specific to certain cells (because they came from them).
↳ *This is the most widely accepted theory.*