

Look at Lichen Up Close

A lava flow is a dry and cold environment for life, where fierce sunlight beats down and winter snows make survival difficult. Despite the extremes, lichens thrive here, bringing life to the barren rock. Lichens are composite organisms that result from a symbiotic relationship between fungi and algae. The fungi provide shelter for the algae, while algae provide the fungi with nutrients produced through photosynthesis.