



Evolution and Inheritance

Science Knowledge Organiser Year 6 Term 3



Key vocabulary

Offspring – a young animal or plant produced by the reproduction of that species

Inheritance – when characteristics are passed onto an offspring from their parent

Variations – differences between individuals within a species

Characteristics – distinguishing features or qualities specific to a species

Adaptation – a trait (or characteristic) changing to increase a living thing's chance of surviving or reproducing

Habitat – a specific area of place where particular plants and/or animals can live

Environment – contains many habitats and areas, where there are both living and non-living things

Evolution – adaptation over a very long period of time

Natural Selection – process where organisms, which are better adapted to their environment, tend to survive and produce more offspring

Fossil – remains or imprint of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock and preserved

Organism – an individual animal, plant or single-celled life form

Inherited traits – traits you acquire from an offspring's parents

Species – a group of similar organisms that are able to reproduce

Key Questions

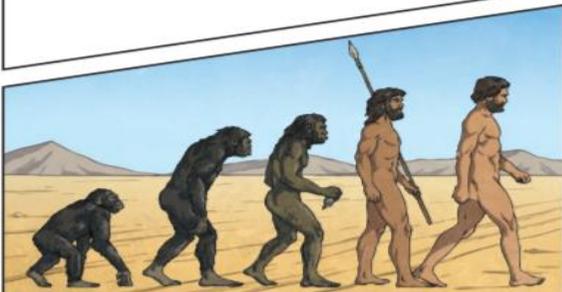
- How have living things changed over time?
- Why are fossils important? What do they tell us?
- How are offspring similar to their parents and how may they differ?
- When does evolution occur?

Key People

Charles Darwin – (1809 – 1882) an English naturalist, geologist and biologist, who was best known for his contributions to the science of evolution (with **Alfred Wallace**).

Mary Anning – (1799 – 1847) an English fossil collector and palaeontologist, who became known for the important finds she made in Jurassic marine fossil beds in the cliffs along the English Channel at Lyme Regis.

Evolution is the gradual process by which different kinds of living organism have developed from earlier forms over millions of years. Scientists have proof that living things are continuously **evolving** - even today!



Key Knowledge

What I should know already...

What I will know by the end of the unit...

- that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago
- that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents
- how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.

More Key Knowledge...

Living Things		Habitat		Adaptive Traits
polar bear		arctic		Its white fur enables it to camouflage in the snow.
camel		desert		It has wide feet to make it easier to walk in the sand.
cactus		desert		It stores water in its stem.
toucan		rainforest		Its narrow tongue allows it to eat small fruit and insects.

Useful web links:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvhhvcw/articles/zxg7y4j>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvhhvcw/articles/zp9f4qt>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvhhvcw/articles/z9qs4qt>



Inherited Traits
 Eye colour is an example of an **inherited trait**, but so are things like hair colour, the shape of your earlobes and whether or not you can smell certain flowers.