

Science

Topic: Evolution and Inheritance

Year 6

What I should know by the end of the unit?

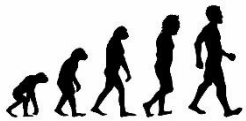
Vocabulary

- All living things have changed over time and we can see this change through **fossils**.
- Fossils show us what living things looked like millions of years ago.
- Living things produce **offspring** that are of the same type as their parents but are not normally identical.
- Animals and plants have changed over millions of years and display **adaptations** that help them succeed in their **environment**.
- Animals and plants that have adaptations which are considered beneficial are able to reach maturity and **reproduce** successfully.
- Successful adaptations in plants and animals may lead to **evolution**, over a long time period.

adaptation	a change in structure or function that improves the chance of survival for an animal or plant within a given environment
characteristics	the qualities or features that belong to them and make them recognisable
DNA	carries specific generic information inside every living things.
environment	all the circumstances, people, things, and events around
evolution	a process of change that takes place over many generations, during which species of animals, plants, or insects slowly change some of their physical characteristics
extinct	no longer has any living members, either in the world or in a
fossil	hard remains of a prehistoric animal or plant that are found
genetics	inherited characteristics
inherit	if you inherit a characteristic you are born with it, because your parents or ancestors also had it
offspring	a person's children or an animal's young
palaeontology	the study of fossils as a guide to the history of life on Earth
species	a class of plants or animals whose members have the same main characteristics and are able to breed with each other
theory	a formal idea that is intended to explain something
variation	a change or slight difference

Evolution

The **theory of evolution** by **natural selection** (first formulated in **Charles Darwin**) is the process by which organisms change over time as a result of changes in **inheritable** physical or behavioural **traits**.



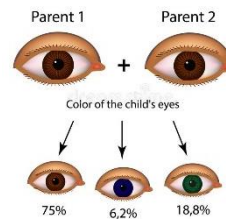
Adaptation

Adaptation is when a plant or animal has **changed** in some way, over a long period of time, to be better suited to the **environment**.



Inheritance

When parents have **offspring**, they pass on their **physical traits**. The offspring **inherit** their parents' **qualities**.



Can you spot the camouflage animal?



Mary Anning

Mary Anning (1799 – 1847) was an English fossil collector, dealer, and **paleontologist** who became known around the world for important finds she made in Jurassic marine **fossil** beds in the cliffs along the English Channel at Lyme Regis in the county of Dorset in Southwest England.



Did you know?

Meerkats have dark circles around their eyes, which act like sunglasses, helping them see even when the sun is shining brightly.