Key Vocabulary

Evolution	Evidence
Adaptation	Argument
Inherited traits	Refute
Adaptive traits	DNA
Natural selection	Genes
Inheritance	Variation
Charles Darwin	Parent
Alfred Wallace	
Offspring	
Fossil	
Fossilisation	
Environment	
Habitat	

To look at all the planning resources linked to the Evolution and Inheritance unit, click here.

Offspring

Animals and plants produce **offspring** that are similar but not identical to them. **Offspring** often look like their parents because features are passed on.

Variation

In the same way that there is **variation** between parents and their **offspring**, you can see **variation** within any species, even plants.

Adaptive Traits

Characteristics that are influenced by the **environment** the living things live in. These **adaptations** can develop as a result of many things, such as food and climate.

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.

Habitats

A good **habitat** should provide shelter, water, enough space and plenty of food.

Environments

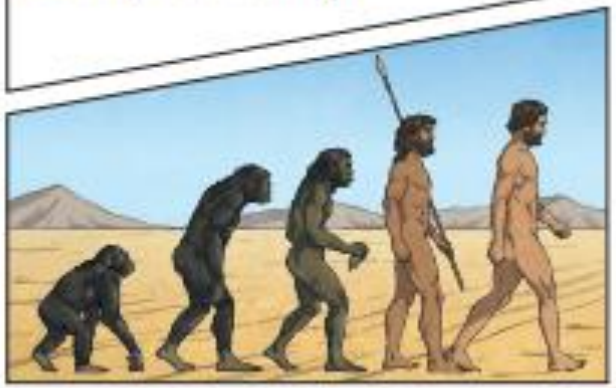
There are many types of **environment** around the world. Polar regions, deserts, rainforests, oceans, rivers, and grasslands are all **environments**.

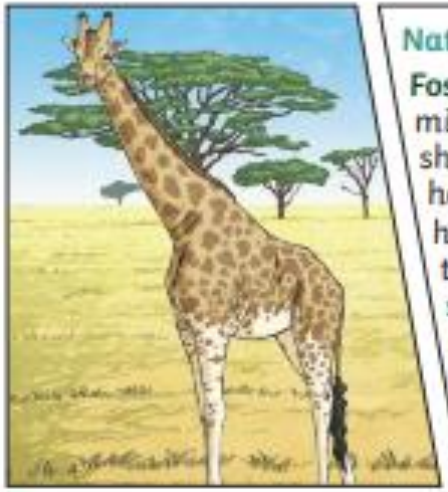
Key Questions:

Can you explain what the term 'inheretance' means?
Can you explain what variation means?
How are certain animals addapted to where they live?
Can you explain what natural selection is?
Can you explain how humans have changed over a long period of time?

Fossils are the preserved remains, or partial remains, of ancient animals and plants. **Fossils** let scientists know how plants and animals used to look millions of years ago. This is proof that living things have evolved over time.

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!





Natural Selection

Fossils of giraffes from millions of years ago show that they used to have shorter necks. They have gradually evolved through natural selection to have longer necks so that they can reach the top leaves on taller trees.

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.