

Key Vocabulary

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



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:

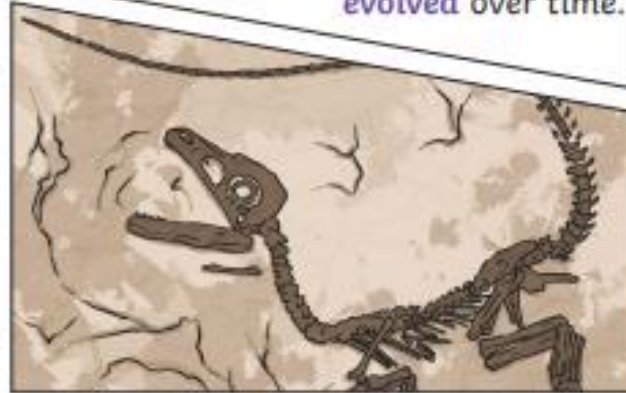
Can you explain how living things have changed over time?

Can you explain how fossils give us information about the past?

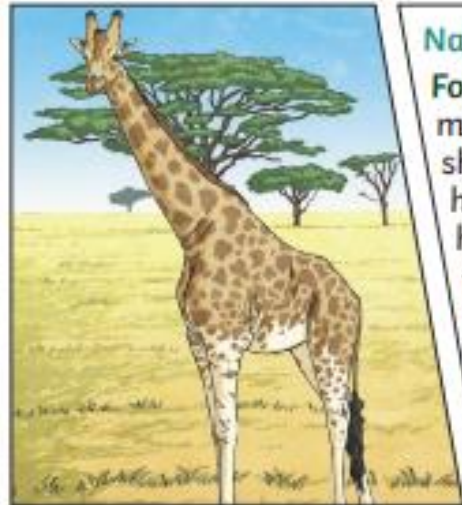
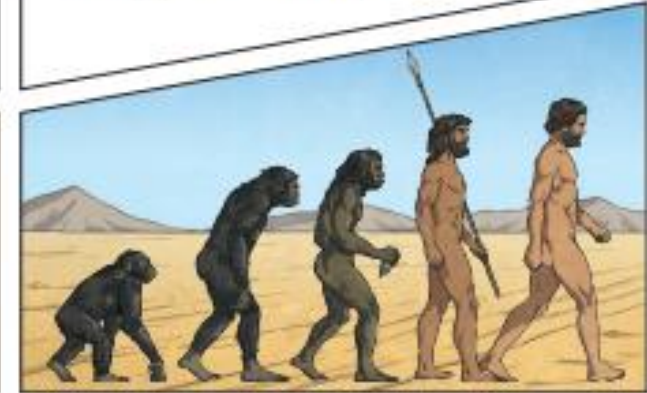
Can you explain that living things produce offspring?

Can you explain how living things are adapted to suit their environment?

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.