



What should I already know?

Animals including humans produce offspring.

Fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock.

Diagrams



Cacti have adapted to live in extremely dry conditions.



Giraffes have long necks to reach the lush leaves at the top of the trees.



Vocabulary



Evolution 	The process by which living things can gradually change over time.
Fossils 	The remains or trace of a living animal or plant from a long time ago.
Adaptation 	How living things are specialised to suit their environment.
Inheritance 	The process of passing on features from parents to offspring.
Natural selection 	Is about the biology changes in species in response to ongoing changes in that species' environment.
Survival of the fittest 	The strongest living things continue to live or be successful, while the others die or fail.
Variation 	The difference between living things in a species.
Palaeontologists 	The study of plants and animals that lived millions of years ago.

Quick Facts Living things have inhabited the world for millions of years.



Fossils provide proof of this and they can show that creatures have changed over time.

Fossils provide information about what the creatures looked like and how they might have lived.

Mary Anning was one of the greatest fossil hunters and she found many important fossils on the Jurassic coast.

Living things produce offspring that are like them but they are not identical to their parents.

Charles Darwin observed this and believed it happened through natural selection.

He noticed that creatures are in competition with each other and these small changes could mean animals were more likely to reproduce and thrive.

These small changes were passed on and in time new species were created – this is evolution.

Those creatures whose characteristics did not give them an edge were less likely to reproduce and therefore they did not survive.

This led to the term 'survival of the fittest.'

Many animals are well adapted to their environment.

Plants have also adapted to suit their environments.

Working Scientifically

	Questioning, Planning and Enquiring		Investigating
	Observing and Recording		Concluding and Evaluating