

Remember
in Year 2
we learned:

How
humans
have
offspring
that grow in
to adults

Year 6

Evolution and inheritance

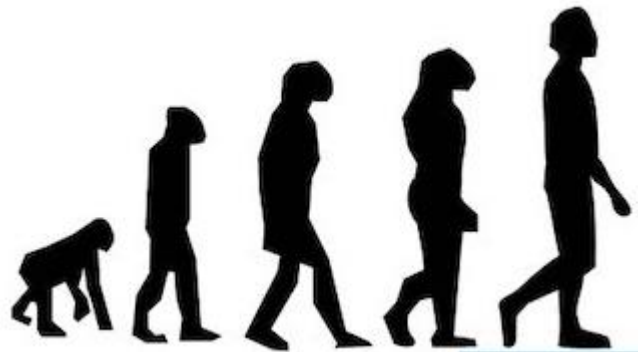
Later, in
KS3, you
will learn:

How genetic
information
is passed
down
through
generations

Knowledge

By the end of this unit of study, pupils will be able to:

One	To explore how a plant adapts to its environment	
Two	To explore how an animal adapts to survive in its environment	
Three	Explore adaptations animals and plants have made in their environments and explore the impact of not having those characteristics	
Four	Explore an unusual environment and research the adaptations that would be needed to survive there	
Five	Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.	
Six	Recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.	



Key Vocabulary

offspring, sexual reproduction,
vary, characteristics, suited,
adapted, environment,
inherited, species, fossils,
evolve, evolution

Key Learning

All living things have offspring of the same kind, as features in the offspring are inherited from the parents. Due to sexual reproduction, the offspring are not identical to their parents and vary from each other.

Plants and animals have characteristics that make them suited (adapted) to their environment. If the environment changes rapidly, some variations of a species may not suit the new environment and will die. If the environment changes slowly, animals and plants with variations that are best suited survive in greater numbers to reproduce and pass their characteristics on to their young. Over time, these inherited characteristics become more dominant within the population. Over a very long period of time, these characteristics may be so different to how they were originally that a new species is created. This is evolution.

Fossils give us evidence of what lived on the Earth millions of years ago and provide evidence to support the theory of evolution. More recently, scientists such as Darwin and Wallace observed how living things adapt to different environments to become distinct varieties with their own characteristics.