

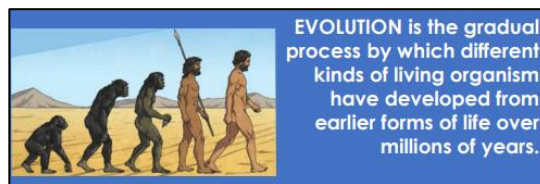
Year 5/6: Living Things & Evolution

Subject Specific Vocabulary Dozen

Characteristics	The distinguishing traits or features that define an individual or group.
Adaptation	A process by which an organism changes or adjusts its features or behaviours to become better suited to its environment.
Offspring	The children or young of a particular parent or parents.
Classification	Classification is the process of grouping living things according to their similarities
Warm-blooded	Animals that can control their body temperature internally are called warm-blooded.
Cold-blooded	Animals that can't control their body temperature internally are called cold-blooded.
Organism	This is another way to refer to a living thing. A microorganism is an organism that can only be seen using a microscope.
Environment	The surroundings or conditions in which an organism lives.
Species	A group of organisms that share common characteristics.
Evolution	The gradual change and development of a species over time.
Inherited/Inheritance	The passing of genetic information or traits from parents to their offspring.
Natural selection	The process by which organisms that are better adapted to their environment have a higher chance of survival and reproduction.

What I will know at the end of the unit:

- How to describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird.
- How to describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.
- How to describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including micro-organisms, plants and animals.
- Can give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics.
- Can recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.
- Can recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.
- I can identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution



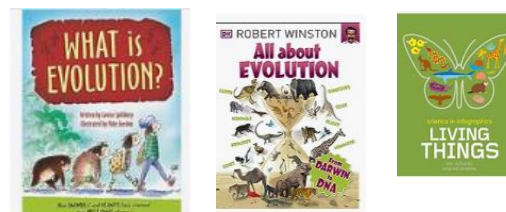
Charles Darwin (1809-1882)
 In his book, "The Origin of Species", Darwin explained his theory of **Natural Selection** which is the basis for our understanding of **Evolution** today.



Gregor Mendel (1822-1884)
 Mendel bred different types of pea plant together and used his observations to derive his "Laws of **Inheritance**" founding the modern science of **Genetics**.



Exciting Books



Sticky Knowledge

Living things can be formally grouped according to characteristics. Plants and animals are two main groups.

Animals can be divided into two main groups: those that have backbones (vertebrates); and those that do not (invertebrates). Vertebrates can be divided into five small groups: fish; amphibians; reptiles; birds; and mammals. Each group has common characteristics.

Plants can be divided broadly into two main groups: flowering plants; and non-flowering plants.

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 year ago and provide evidence to support the theory of evolution.

