

Alverton School Science Knowledge Organiser Years 5 and 6 - EVOLUTION AND INHERITANCE

What we already know:

Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and can describe how different habitats provide the needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and know how they depend on each other (Y1)

Describe in simple times how fossils are formed and when things that have lived are trapped between rocks. (Y3)

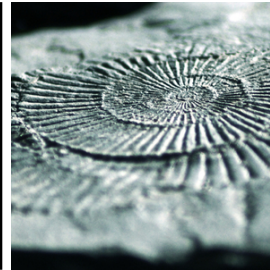
Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things (Y4)

Key Vocabulary

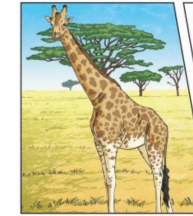
offspring	A living thing's young, their children/ young.
adaptation	Living things have special features to suit the environment to help them survive.
evolution	The process by which living organisms have developed from earlier forms during the history of Earth.
inherit	To gain a characteristic or quality genetically by a parent or ancestor.
reproduction	The production of offspring by sexual or
variation	A change or slight difference.
survival	To continue to live or exist
breeding	The mating and production of offspring by animals.
fossilisation	An impression of a decayed plant or animal preserved in rock.

Core Knowledge

Recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.



Identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.



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.

Charles Darwin, an evolutionary scientist, studied different animal and plant species, which allowed him to see how adaptations could come about. His work on the finches was some of his most famous.



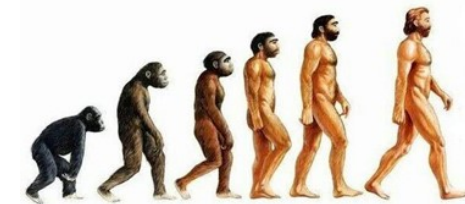
Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.



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



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.



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.