

What I should already know:

Know that rocks and fossils show how some life has evolved

Know the human life cycle and that of some animals

By the end of this unit:

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

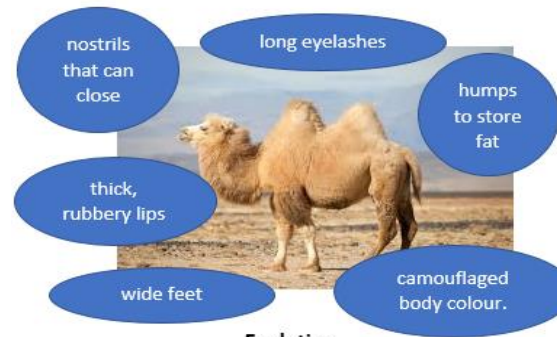
Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.

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

YEAR 6: Evolution and Inheritance

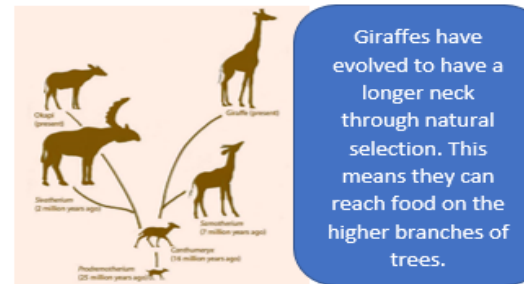
Adaptation

Plants and animals have characteristics that make them suited to their environment. E.g. camel:



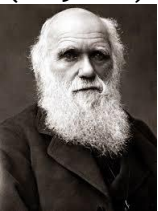
Evolution

Adaptation can lead to evolution if the environment changes. Animals and plants with variations that are best suited survive in greater numbers to reproduce and pass their characteristics on to their young. This is natural selection. Over time these inherited characteristics become more dominant within the population.

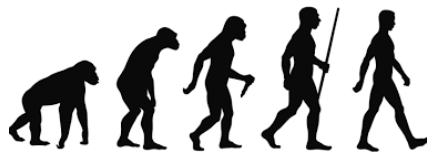


Significant scientists

Charles Darwin
(1809-1882)



Charles Robert Darwin was born in Shrewsbury and was an English naturalist and biologist. His scientific theory of evolution by natural selection became the foundation of modern evolutionary studies.



Offspring are not normally identical to their parents and vary from each other.

Investigate

Which beak has adapted to eat which type of food?



What are the similarities and differences between these beaks?

Key vocabulary

evolution	The way in which plants and animals have changed over millions of years.
offspring	A person's child/children or an animal's young.
inherited	The way a trait or characteristic is passed to offspring from parents.
characteristics	A distinguishing trait, feature or quality.
variation	A change or small difference.
adapted	Animals and plants are adapted to their environment. Their bodies are suited to the way they live.
environment	The conditions in which a living thing exists.
species	A group of closely related organisms that are very similar to each other. We are the human species.
fossil	The naturally preserved remains or traces of animals or plants that lived long ago.
Mutations	Random variations that occur naturally from one generation to the next of all living things

Key Facts

Living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are non-identical to their parents.

Animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways

Adaptation of plants and animals to suit their environment may lead to evolution.

Scientists have helped to develop our understanding of the process of evolution.

Living things have changed over time and that a number of factors can affect a species' evolution.

Humans have evolved over time and human behaviour can affect change in species over time.