

Science: Evolution and Inheritance

Key vocabulary

characteristics	a feature or quality belonging typically to a type of living thing
inherited	characteristics that are passed on to the offspring from the parent
variation	a change or slight difference
environment	an area that contains many habitats
adapted	a characteristic change to increase a living thing's survival chance
evolution	the theory that all the kinds of living things that exist today developed from earlier types

Key knowledge

- All living things have offspring that are similar but not identical.
- An offspring's features are **inherited** from the parents but there are **variations** between them (including plants). They may take **characteristics** from their father, mother or both.
- There are many types of **environments** around the world, with different foods and climates, which can influence the living things that live in that area.
- Animals and plants which have best **adapted** to suit their environment survive in greater numbers to reproduce and pass their **characteristics** on to their young.
- Over time these **inherited characteristics** become more widespread within the population.
- Over millions of years, 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**.
- Scientists such as Darwin and Wallace observed how living things **adapted** to different environments to become new species.

We are building our knowledge from

- Rocks (Year 3)
- Living Things and their Habitats (Year 4)
- Animals inc Humans (Year 5)

Living Things		Habitat		Adaptive Traits
polar bear		arctic		Its white fur enables it to camouflage in the snow.
camel		desert		It has wide feet to make it easier to walk in the sand.
cactus		desert		It stores water in its stem.
toucan		rainforest		Its narrow tongue allows it to eat small fruit and insects.

