

Science Topic : Evolution and Inheritance

Year 6

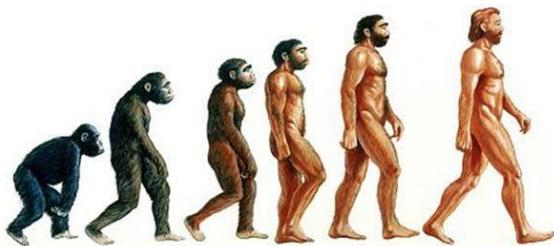
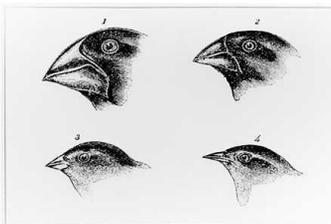
Term 5

Key Knowledge

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

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

To be able to identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.



Charles Darwin

Charles Darwin published his scientific theory of natural selection in a book called 'On the Origin of Species' in 1859. Darwin's theory explained how every living thing is connected in a family tree that stretches back billions of years to the beginning of life on Earth.

ALFRED WALLACE – co-published the theory of evolution by natural selection with Charles Darwin. He travelled the world and studied plants and animals. His ideas were very important in developing how we think about nature today.



Key Vocabulary

Fossil	The remains or impression of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock and preserved
Offspring	A person's child or children/ an animal's young
Inherit	Inherit – to gain a quality, characteristic of predisposition genetically from a parent or ancestor
Adaptation	The process of change so that an organism or species can become better suited to their environment
Breeding	The mating and production of offspring by animals
Environment	The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives
Evolution	The process by which different kinds of living organism are believed to have developed from earlier forms during the history of the earth
Reproduction	The production of offspring by a sexual or asexual process
Selective breeding	The process by which humans use animal breeding and plant breeding to develop selective characteristics by choosing particular animals and plants
Trace fossil	Indirect evidence of life in the past such as the footprints, tracks, burrows, borings and waste left behind by animals
Inherited variation	A characteristic that is a result of genetic inheritance; e.g. eye colour, hair colour and skin colour.

INHERITANCE - Are you ever told that you look like your parents? This is because we inherit features and characteristics from them e.g. our natural hair and eye colour, our height or the shape of our face.