



Topic: Evolution and Inheritance

Year: 6

Term: 6

Background Information

I 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. I 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.

Interesting facts

- No two animals are the same, even if they belong to the same species. There are over 340 breeds of dog, yet they all come from one kind of wild wolf that existed many years ago. Humans share the same five-fingered bone structure in their hands with lots of other animals that have paws, wings or flippers, such as lemurs and bats. Fossils are evidence of extinct species. However, perfect conditions are needed for fossils to form. We are able to see from fossils that dinosaurs, woolly mammoths and dodos lived many years ago. But we'll never really know all of the weird and wonderful species that previously existed! Although they both live underwater, dolphins evolved from mammals whereas sharks evolved from fish ancestors. Humans, animals, plants, insects and even bacteria, all descend from the first living things that ever came to be. At one point in time, whales walked on land!



Did you know that Charles Darwin's theory of evolution caused quite a stir in the 19th century? At the time, many still believed the world and everything in it was created all at once.

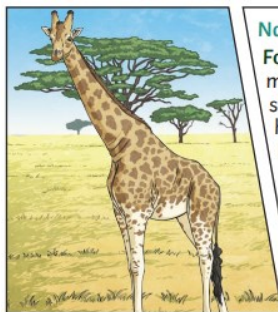
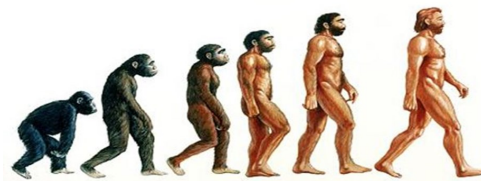
Key Vocabulary

Table with 2 columns: Term and Definition. Terms include Adaptation, Body fossil, Breeding, Environment, Evolution, Fossil, Inherit, Offspring, Reproduction, Selective breeding, and Inherited traits.

Diagrams / Timelines / Photos



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.



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.

Table with 3 columns: Living Things, Habitat, and Adaptive Traits. Rows include polar bear, camel, cactus, and toucan.

Know how to / Activity

Make a poster about variation in one type of pet e.g. dog, cat, horse, guinea pig, snake, rabbit. Information you could include: * Different types of this pet e.g. bulldog, beagle, collie. * Variation between these breeds e.g. size, fur, colour, body shape.