

Summer Term 1 Overview Year 5 and 6 – Science

	Summer Term 1 – Mortal Engines							
Topic: Evolution an	d Inheritance	Guide Time = 7 Weeks						
Assessment:	End of unit Assessment: Year 6 – Evolution and inheritance Twinkl Assessment. Regular VIP quizzes. Ongoing teacher assessment, based on AfL throughout each lesson.	Very Important Points (VIPs): - Offspring inherit characteristics from both of their parents such as eye and hair colour.						
Links to prior learning (sequencing) and canon book	 Children will use and apply their existing knowledge from prior learning in Year 3 on Rocks: Compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties. Describe in simple terms how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock. 	 Fossils are the preserved remains of ancient animals and plants and provide scientists with proof that living things have evolved over time. Evolution is the gradual process by which different kinds of living organism have developed from earlier forms over millions of years. 						
	Children will also build upon their prior learning throughout KS2, on Living Things and their Habitats focusing on how living things pass on characteristics to their offspring as well as that they can become adapted to their habitats.	- Natural selection is where organisms better adapt to their environment to survive and produce more offspring. (The idea of 'survival of the fittest' – the 'fittest' meaning the best adapted to the surroundings/habitat.)						
Links to other learning (cross fertilisation)	 <u>English</u>: Make links with Kipling's Just So Stories - creation myths. Contrast these with the actual process of natural selection. Audio versions via the Storynory site: <u>www.storynory.com/category/rudyard-kipling/</u> The children could present a report about the peppered moth, or enact this as a drama to illustrate what happened. A good story book on evolution would be Our Family Tree: An Evolution Story by Lisa Westberg Peters or Inside The Beagle with Charles Darwin by Fiona Macdonald. <u>Computing</u>: Model evolution in various games. The children could produce an audio or video presentation, depending on equipment and time available, or could produce a regular presentation using PowerPoint, Prezi or similar. Collect data and enter it onto a database to allow for frequency graphs to be drawn and produced. The children could use 2Investigate (Purple Mash). 	 Evidence of this can be found in fossils and adaptive traits in animals. <u>Key vocabulary:</u> <u>Cells</u> - Cells are the building blocks of all living things. All living things are made up of cells. Amoebas have one cell. Humans have trillions of cells! <u>DNA</u> - DNA carries the characteristics that we inherit. It is located in two places in the cell: the nucleus and the mitochondria. DNA can replicate and make copies of itself. When cells divide, each cell needs to have an exact copy of the DNA in the old cell. <u>Chromosomes</u> - Chromosomes are tiny structures inside cells made from DNA and protein. The information inside chromosomes acts like a recipe that tells cells how to function and replicate. Every form of life has its own unique set of instructions, including 						

Consider how the evolution of technology, in particular engines and motor vehicles, has impacted our lives for the better. Children will use their knowledge and understanding of evolution and		
How has technology evolved over time?		
Explain your reasons. Technology in Action:		
How have different cultures defined evolution? Do different religions		
on evolution and how humans have adapted over time?		
Healthy Bodies & Healthy Minds: Consider how our lifestyles have changed over time: has this impacted		
evolution, both positively and negatively?		
Modern Britain:		
How does our knowledge of evolution of plants and animals link to how	How vital is current scientific research in continuing to develop our understanding of adaptation and evolution?	
How can our knowledge of evolution continue to help us learn more		
Could evolution on Earth effect and impact how other planets evolve?	How will the world's response to climate change impact on adaptation, evolution and extinction?	
The World Beyond Us:	Fat Questions:	
Thematic Questions:	<u>Variety</u> : Differences between things as part of a whole group.	
<u>RE:</u> Discuss creation myths of various religions and why Darwin's theory caused such a stir in Victorian times, for example.	Adaptation - An adaptation is a trait (or characteristic) changing to increase a living thing's chances of surviving and reproducing.	
ship, comparing between then and now.	offspring from their parents.	
	<u>Variation</u> - The differences between individuals within a species.	
Outdoor learning: Take the children to observe some animals and how they have adapted to their babitats as they walk around school	information. This is often called the genetic code. All the genes in the whole cell are called the genome.	
our arm length? Is our hand size and foot size related?	<u>Genes</u> - Genes are short sections of DNA that contain specific	
	tall you are, and whether you're a boy or a girl. The nucleus of a	
Maths: Produce graphs and charts from the data collected, including	you. Your chromosomes describe what colour eyes you have, how	Т
	simple bar charts of height and pie charts of hair and eye colour. The children could carry out investigations such as is our height related to our arm length? Is our hand size and foot size related? <u>Outdoor learning</u> : Take the children to observe some animals and how they have adapted to their habitats as they walk around school. <u>History</u> : Learn about Charles Darwin and the conditions aboard the ship, comparing between then and now. <u>RE</u> : Discuss creation myths of various religions and why Darwin's theory caused such a stir in Victorian times, for example. <u>Thematic Questions:</u> <u>The World Beyond Us</u> : Explore how evolution in our solar system has changed over time. Could evolution on Earth effect and impact how other planets evolve? <u>The World Around Us</u> : How can our knowledge of evolution continue to help us learn more about how our world will continue to adapt and evolve in the future? How does our knowledge of evolution of plants and animals link to how our world has evolved? <u>Modern Britain</u> : How do you think that modern day humans might be influencing evolution, both positively and negatively? <u>Healthy Bodies & Healthy Minds</u> : Consider how our lifestyles have changed over time; has this impacted on evolution and how humans have adapted over time? How have different cultures defined evolution? Do different religions and cultures believe and define evolution in the exact same way? Explain your reasons. <u>Technology in Action</u> :	 simple bar charts of height and pie charts of heir and eye colour. The children could carry out investigations such as is our height related to our arm length? Is our hand size and foot size related? <u>Outdoor learning</u>: Take the children to observe some animals and how they have adapted to their habitats as they walk around school. <u>History</u>: Learn about Charles Darwin and the conditions aboard the ship, comparing between then and now. <u>RE</u>: Discuss creation myths of various religions and why Darwin's theory caused such a stir in Victorian times, for example. <u>Thematic Questions:</u> <u>The World Beyond Us</u>: <u>Explore how evolution in our solar system has changed over time. Could evolution on Earth effect and impact how other planets evolve?</u> <u>How vane volved?</u> <u>Modem Britain:</u> <u>How do you unifestyles have changed over time?; Cutture:</u> <u>How have different cultures defined evolution in the exact same way?</u> <u>Explain your reasons.</u> <u>Technology in Action;</u>



		ACADEMIE:
	 Children will learn and develop more in-depth knowledge through the unit on Genetics and evolution, which will focus on Inheritance, chromosomes, DNA and genes. They will also explore and apply this knowledge to their Science unit on 'Structure and function of living organisms', when learning new concepts and developing a more in-depth understanding of Cells and organisation. 	
Character/ Wider Development ('50 things', cultural capital, skills)	 Children will explore their own schools '50 Things' and how this could support their understanding and development of evolution and inheritance. Children can explore and raise awarenss of World Earth Day – April 22nd and how adaptation has changed / quickened due to global warming and climate change. Children could explore how the solar system and space exploration has evolved over time on Space Day – May 7th. Children can take part in time travel by visiting a Science / History museum where children can see and examine a range of fossils and artefacts linked to evolution and inheritance. 	



Overview of Teaching Sequence

Key Facts / Learning	Learning Focus or Key Question	Learning Outcomes (NC)	Key Words/ Vocabulary	Greater Depth/SEND	Misconceptions	Activities and Resources
Lesson 1 Offspring inherit characteristics from both of their parents such as eye and hair colour.	To explain the scientific concept of inheritance and how inherited characteristics can lead to variation.	Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.	inheritance inherited characteristics acquired characteristics physical environmental factors adaptation variation DNA offspring parents genes evolution	GD: Mr Potato Head – Focus on three or four variables, e.g. size of ears, size of nose, size of eyes, moustache or not, etc. Encourage children to make comparisons and provide reasonable, scientific suggestions as to why this may be. Children to further explore information on genetics and chromosomes and how inheritance occurs, to gain a more in-depth understanding, click here Children are able to explain and make links with prior scientific learning and apply to current and future learning,	Children may think Boys will look like their father's side of the family and girls like their mother's side. Particular features are identical, such as mother's nose and father's eyes, rather than them being a blend of the two. You are only offspring when you are a child. Inheritance is what is passed on to you when a relative die. Your inherited characteristics are not always part of your DNA and you can lose these characteristics over time.	Vocabulary Check! Children will explore and define key vocabulary that will be used throughout this unit. Children to carry out an activity that allows them to identify and discuss similarities between themselves and others or themselves and their parents / siblings. Simple matching games would help here; matching children to parents/animal offspring to their parents – how are they similar? Different? Horses work well for this as they have different white markings. Children will continue to identify and explore inheritance, through discussions and exploring additional pictures and videos to aid their understanding. They must understand the difference between inherited characteristics and environmental factors. Discuss what the twins would inherit – BBC video. Children to discuss and understand the difference between inherited and acquired characteristics. CT to model and address misconceptions. Year 5 : children will explore and record the differences, carrying out a survey on the way they look (take care with children's feelings and sensitivity about the way they look). Data should be collected in a tally chart on the board for children to then draw a bar chart of their results. Discuss if there is a 50:50 split. Or is one characteristic more common? Where did you get them from? Can your parents roll their tongue if you can/can't? Children will then use this to explain inheritance in their own words.



 with in-depth explanations given. SEND: SEND: Sort and explain characteristics which are inherited and acquired. Children to identify and explain inherited characteristics and inherited features. Children to identify and explain inherited characteristics and inherited characteristics and inherited features. Children to identify and explain inherited characteristics and discussions carried out in the leason. Children can then expand on this and explain how inheritance then leads to variation in humans / species. Examples provided to fully explain their explanations / understanding. Year 6 Deepen the moment Children explore and match a range of offspring to their parents and discuss how they know. Mr Potato Head - Focus on two variables, e.g. Hig or smail eyes, Dig or smail eyes,	T				Veen & Deener the memory of a CADEMIES IRU
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to more. Bar chart templates Bar chart templates			on these variables		as deit drints and dimples.
to more. Bar chart templates Bar chart templates			before applying them		www.wartgamas.com/thomas/science/dna.html.hee
Bar chart templates					
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			Bar chart templates		DNA.



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Lesson 2 An adaptation is a trait (or characteristic) changing to increase a living thing's chances of surviving and reproducing.	To demonstrate and understand the scientific meaning of adaptation.	Identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.	adaptation evolution adapt environment change animals species extinct genetic engineering	GD: Children identify and explain the adaptations of a chosen animal and plant, which is of rarer form, e.g. Leaf Tailed Gecko. Children to create their own animal / plant and explain its adaptations to its environment. Children provide further in-depth explanation as to how and why animals and plants have adapted in the way they have and how the changing climate has impacted this. The adaptation of the polar bear and a grizzly bear into a pizzly (or grolar) bear. SEND: Children to match adaptive characteristics to the	Children may think That adaptations never change and once an animal is adapted to its environment it can no longer change. Adaptation and environment are the same thing. Animals do not change over time; therefore, their adaptations remain the same over time. Climate change has no impact on how an animal adapts to its environment or the change in their environment.	 Revisit and review prior learning and VIPs. Explore prior learning on plant adaptation. CT to explain the term adaptation and model responses using examples. Discuss how this is different to environments and whether this can lead to variation. Explore plant and animal adaptations together as a class / in pairs. CT to model and discuss the fish and then explore a polar bear. How and why is this adapted in the way that it is, to its environment? Year 5: children will explore the adaptations of a penguin and a cactus. They will identify the adaptations of these species, providing explanation as to why. Year 5 Deepen the moment Explore the impact on our world, if animals can no longer adapt to their ever-changing environments. Year 6: children explore, identify and explain the adaptations of selected / chosen animals and plants. They will locate and identify the adaptations are needed to help them survive. This will be a written task where they provide information about the animal and plant, explain their adaptations and how they help them to survive in their environment. Year 6 Deepen the moment
				Children to match adaptive		Sam is a keen scientist and understands that if a



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			correct places on the animal and plant. Children could select another animal or plant from a different kind of environment and record how it has adapted.		Children could further explore how humans across the world have adapted to their environments and habitats. Websites to support further learning: www.arkive.org/royal-penguin/ eudyptes- schlegeli/video-06b.html
Lesson 3 Evolution is the gradual process by which different kinds of living organism have developed from earlier forms over millions of years.	e animals and e plants are a adapted to suit a their s environment in e different ways th and that e adaptation may s lead to n	adaptation evolution adapt animals species extinct heory of evolution science natural selection	GD: Children will make links and provide more in-depth explanations and justifications for the theories given. Children will draw upon prior learning (fossils, plant adaptation) to support their explanations and make pertinent links to provide justifications. Children explore Natural Selection and provide in-depth explanation and evidence. SEND: Children to use the given word banks to support their explanation. Children to have images/names of	Children may think That evolution can only happen over millions of years. That we can no longer evolve, as evolution has already taken place. Charles Darwin is the only scientist with a theory of evolution. Evolution doesn't exist.	Revisit and revise prior learning on inheritance and adaptation. Make links and review 'The Moth' story. Explore and discuss the theory of evolution, making links to the Reading for Productivity text. Children will consider their own views in response to those of others. CT to model the views of key, scientific figures and explain how they came to their conclusions of evolution. Children will explore the theories of evolution given over time. Children will work in groups, with each group given a specific time period of theories. They are to examine the different theories from their given time period and make comparisons to theories and our knowledge of evolution now: Are there any similarities? Differences? Children will feedback and summarise the overall theories of their given time period. CT to record whole class findings and provide a brief summary of each time period and their theories. Model and discuss the key theories of Charles Darwin and his study / findings of his Galapagos Finches. Make comparisons to the Alfred Wallace's theory of Natural Selection. Year 5: children will summarise and explain the key ideas of the theory of evolution based on the discussions in the lesson. They will use the information to support their explanations.



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				each time period's theory of evolution and they provide a brief summary of the theory.		Year 5 Deepen the moment Consider and evaluate Alfred Wallace's theory of evolution.
				Children to match the period of time to the key figure's theories.		Year 6: Children will summarise the key ideas of the theory of evolution over time and then explain, in their own words compare Darwin's and Wallace's theories and findings of evolution.
				Children complete a 'closed' procedure filling in the sentences with the correct words based		Year 6 Deepen the moment Debate the theories of Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace to one other. Do you agree / disagree with their theories? Justify your reasons.
				on their understanding of the key ideas of evolution.		Websites to support further learning: www.sciencenetlinks.com/lessons/bird-beaks/ can help with the bird seed eating activity.
				Children will focus on the explanation of the		www.truthinscience.org.uk/content.cfm?id=3118 gives information on the peppered moth story and how it evolved. This can be linked to 'The Moth' story read at the beginning of the unit.
	To oversing	Decoming that	facilization	adaptations and natural selection process, omitting the theories explored. GD:	Children mou	https://www.nhm.ac.uk/schools/teaching- resources/evolution-and-inheritance-resources.html
Lesson 4 Fossils are the preserved remains of ancient animals	To examine fossils and evidence demonstrating how plants	Recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide	fossilisation fossil prehistoric living things plants animals	Children will make links to prior learning, using key vocabulary accurately to provide in-depth explanations	Children may think Fossils are only of dinosaurs. Fossils are very	Revisit and revise prior learning on inheritance, adaptation and evolution. Children will revisit key terminology and its meaning. CT to discuss and explain the process of fossilisation. Children will explore the process and spend time
and plants and provide scientists with proof that living things have evolved over	and animals have evolved over time.	information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions	evolution Charles Darwin Alfred Wallace evolve	and justifications as to what fossils tell us about plant and animals evolution over time.	large. Fossils only exist from millions of years	discussing and ordering images based on the fossilisation process. Children will recap prior knowledge on fossils and key terminology. CT to explain and discuss with the class how
time.		of years ago.	inheritance adaptation	Children can explore and justify, with evidence, whether they believe	ago. Children struggle to recognise changes	fossilisation links to Charles Darwin's theory of evolution.



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	and how these	Year 5: children will examine fossils of horses and
	changes /	explain what this tells us about the evolution of them.
	adaptations have	They will need to ensure they look at what has
continue to mutate	helped us in	changed and why this could be; thinking about the
	understanding	characteristic's horses need now and why.
antibiotics, while	evolution over time.	GD - They will then explore the fossils of plants and
Darwin's finches and		explain what this tells us about evolution over time.
other animals		
continue to be		Year 5 Deepen the moment
studied).		Outline and explain how fossils have helped our
		scientific and historical knowledge of evolution
SEND:		overtime.
Children match the		
fossils of the horses		Year 6: children will examine and analyse the fossils
to their correct time		of horses and plants. They will need to analyse what
period. They will then		has changed and fully explain why this could be,
examine and explain		making references to characteristics now. They can
the differences over		make comparisons by identifying similarities and
time. What has		differences between the evidence and why at least
happened to the		one of these adaptations would be an advantage.
fossils over time?		
		Year 6 Deepen the moment
Children to focus on		True or false? The role of an archaeologist and
examining the fossils		scientist is vital in preserving and learning from
of horses to gain a		history, our ancestors and our world before us.
secure		
understanding of		Websites to support further learning:
how animals have		This <u>website</u> provides information to remind children
evolved over time.		about fossil formation.
		This website has some games and activities (some
Children can use key		low level) linked to differences between carnivores
terminology for		and herbivores and also building a dinosaur from
reference.		parts.
		Here has some images and information about change
		over time.
		www.fossilsforkids.com/ is great for children to use.
		If you are really keen on setting up a dinosaur dig,
		then this link has some very clear instructions and is
		really great to bring it alive
		really great to brilly it allve



Lesson 5 The known stages in humans to wataritotion are: Austratophite. hom humans.Identify how adaptive traits and desortie how humans have evolved over time.GD: Children will itervite traits adapted to suit evolution their natural and Modem vorutime.Children will itervite traits adapted to suit evolution their evolution their evolution and Modem vertime.Children will itervite traits evolution their evolution their evolution their evolutionChildren will revisit prof. Iearming fam dake links to the isolated and built upon.Homo neanderthalensis and Modem vertime.GD: children vertimes adaptet to raits adaptet on suit adaptet on may adaptet on may adaptet on may adaptet on may adaptet on may evolution.GD: Children evolution desn' evolution their ences in depuilt of their ences in depuilt of their ences in depuilt they will understand why from the 20° century were were able to provide ence evolution to itervite start evolution encounce and skeletons provide information about living things baot living they scall appearance adaptever to the evolved species and the identify / explaint the provide appearance adaptive traits of they scall appearance. Children will match the ide							ACADEMIES TRU
resolution to support ruther redinning.	The known stages in human evolution are: Australopithecus, Homo neanderthalensis and Modern	adaptive traits in humans to understand and describe how humans have evolved	animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution. Recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions	adaptive traits evolution evolve humans Charles Darwin theory natural selection	Children will identify similarities and differences in-depth, making clear references to prior learning on natural selection and Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. Children can fully justify and explain how humans have evolved over time; linking both of their physical appearance and skeletons together. SEND: Children will match the pictures to the evolved species and then identify / explain the adaptive traits of physical appearance. Children can match the physical appearance adaptive traits to the species. Children are provided with a key vocabulary bank to support their spelling	 think Evolution doesn't exist and has no impact on how humans have adapted. Evolution can only happen over millions of years. Adaptive traits are within them and developed. Adaptations cannot happen accidentally and cannot mutate and be passed on to their offspring. Animals and plants only become extinct because they have 	Children will revisit prior learning and make links to the learning in the lesson. Key terminology will be used and built upon. Children apply and build upon their knowledge of human adaptation and evolution to identify and explain how humans have evolved over time. A further exploration of human evolution will be conducted as a class, with teacher modelling of Charles Darwin's theory and why it was controversial. They will understand why from the 20 th century we were able to provide more evidence to support human evolution through the use of fossils. Year 5 : children will identify the adaptive traits of Modern humans and an Australopithecus Afarensis based upon their physical appearance. They must explore the similarities and differences in order to provide an overall judgement of how the physical appearance has evolved over time. Year 5 Deepen the moment Thinking about the human traits that have evolved over time, why do you think this has happened? Year 6: children will examine and identify the adaptive traits of Modern humans and an Australopithecus through identifying the similarities and differences between their physical appearance and their skeletons. They will ensure they have compared both of these to provide a full, overall explanation of how adaptive traits have helped humans evolve over time. Year 6 Deepen the moment Consider why human traits have evolved over time and why humans look so different in our modern-day

Lesson 6 Natural select is when organisms th	disadvantages	animals and plants are adapted to suit their	living things animals plants evolution adaptation	GD: Children will explore the advantages and disadvantages but recognise the impact	Children may think Humans have no impact on evolution.	https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/human- evolution.html https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/human- origins/353271 Children will revisit prior learning and make links to the learning in the lesson; drawing upon their understanding of adaptation and how this leads to evolution. Key terminology will be used and built upon.
are best suited to the environmen survive and pa on their genetic traits. the same tim organisms th are less likely to survir tend to be eliminated fro the ecosyster The fittest, ma adapted organisms survive and multiply whilst the lead adapted die o	ir and how human affects evolution.	environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution. Recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.	selective breeding genetic modifications cross breeding cloning	humans can have by intervening in evolution. Children will explore the future impact if humans continue to intervene. SEND: Children will match the advantages and disadvantages to the living things. They will then provide further explanation.	All living things have adapted and evolved to the same extent. Selective breeding is a modern-day form of breeding and hasn't existed before. Selective breeding has an evolutionary advantage to living things and their selective breeding process.	Children will explore and identify advantages and disadvantages of adaptations. They will then explore and examine the different ways in which humans can intervene in adaptation. They will understand the different effects this can have on evolution. Year 6 children will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of adaptation. Year 5: Children will identify the advantages and disadvantages of adaptations in living things, fully explaining their reasons. They will explore the affect that humans can have on evolution if they intervene. Children will then imagine and suggest an adaptive trait that humans might evolve in the future and explain the advantages and disadvantages this adaptation would cause. Year 5 Deepen the moment Consider how technology could impact and intervene in the future of evolution.
						Year 6: Children will use their knowledge and identified advantages and disadvantages of adaptations to explore the different interventions humans can have and their effect on evolution. They will research and debate the different interventions, explaining the affects before concluding with their final judgements.





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	Children do not recognise that there	
	are many different	
	views / theories of	
	evolution and do not	
	consider these in	
	their writing.	
	consider these in	

Context (big picture learning):

Science is a vital, creative subject that enables all children to explore, examine and think; understanding the world around and beyond us and allows us to discover and change the world. Science is a core subject that fosters children's learning across all others and allows children to link and build upon core skills, flourish and thrive as well as continue to develop their sense of curiosity of the subject, its importance to develop others as well as the world in which we live in.

Science is more than just a subject, it is our world and life; it is discovery, questioning and challenging; testing theories and problem-solving; determination and resilience; and we want our children to explore and learn this so they can go home and apply it throughout their lives, as a life-long scientist.

This unit not only builds, secures and embeds prior learning that has taken place throughout their primary life but allows them to explore in more depth these key scientific concepts which are vital in their knowledge of the world around and beyond them. It provides them context to everything we produce and use in our daily lives and helps children to consider changes they could make to support national and global changes that will help improve our environment and improve our climate.

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Evolution and Inheritance



Key vocabulary

Offspring - The young animal or plant that is produced by the reproduction of that species.

Inheritance - This is when characteristics are passed on to offspring from their parents.

Variations - The differences between individuals within a species.

Characteristics - The distinguishing features or qualities that are specific to a species.

Adaptation - An adaptation is a trait (or characteristic) changing to increase a living thing's chances of surviving and reproducing.

Habitat – refers to a specific area or place in which a particular plant or animal could live.

Environment – an environment contains many habitats and includes areas where there are both living and non-living things.

Evolution - adaptation over a very long time.

Natural selection – the process where organisms that are better adapted to their environment tend to survive and produce more offspring. Darwin also referred to this as 'survival of the fittest' a term which denotes that some animals survive to breed and some don't. Animals with a slight advantage have a better chance of survival.

Fossil – the remains or imprint of a prehistoric plant or animal, embedded in rock and preserved.

Adaptive traits – genetic features that help a living thing to survive.

Inherited traits – these are traits you get from your parents. Within a family, you will often see similar traits, e.g. curly hair.

Mutation – a mistake in the copying of the DNA.

Very Important Points (VIPs)

Evolution by Natural selection -

Organisms within a species show a wide range of variation, due to their genes (inherited by their parents) and their environment. Natural selection occurs through the following steps:

- Individuals within a species show a genetic variation.
- The individuals with the characteristics that means they are better adapted to their environment will survive.
- These useful genes are passed onto the next generation. This process occurs over a large number of generations.

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.

Fossils are on 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.

Evolution is the gradual process by which different kinds of living organism have developed from earlier forms over millions of years. Scientists have proof that living things are continuously evolving - even today!

Artificial selection occurs when people choose which individuals to breed from because they are selecting for certain traits. This is the reason we have many crops and farm animals.

Important People: Charles Darwin

Charles Robert Darwin (12 February 1809 – 19 April 1882) was an English naturalist. He is most famous for his work on natural selection, the idea that all species of life have evolved over time common ancestors. This process involves favourable traits becoming more common in successive generations of living things while at the same time unfavourable traits become less common.



Not only did Darwin develop the idea of natural selection, he also presented compelling evidence from his detailed research which included a five-year voyage on the HMS Beagle. On this voyage, Darwin visited ecologically diverse regions such as Brazil, Chile, Australia, the Falkland Islands and the Galapagos Islands. His 1859 book 'On the Origin of Species', detailed much of his research on natural selection, it contained a large amount of evidence to back up his ideas and became a landmark work in the field of evolutionary biology.

Living Things		Habitat		Adaptive Traits
Polar bear	C-H	Arctic		Its white fur enables it to camouflage in the snow.
Camel	Y	Desert		It has wide feet to make it easier to walk in the sand.
Cactus	No.	Desert		It stores water in its stem.
Toucan	7	Rainforest		Its narrow tongue allows it to eat small fruit and insects.

Curriculum intent:

To further enhance and support children's understanding and knowledge of the world and how living things have evolved over time. This will support their future learning and wider world context alongside key, scientific and historical figures and their impact on our world and lives today.

