

Inheritance

When parents have offspring, they pass on their physical traits. The offspring inherit their parents' qualities. This means that most offspring look like their parents but they are not identical. The offspring may take characteristics from the father, the mother or a mixture of both.

Adaptation

Adaptations are **any physical or behavioural characteristics of an animal that help it to survive in its environment**. Living things are adapted to their habitats. This means that they have **special features** that help them to **survive**. It's not just animals that are adapted to their environment, plants are too. A cactus is well adapted for survival in the desert. They have long roots to collect water from a large area and a stem that can store water for a long period of time. The animals and plants in one habitat are **suited** to live there and

Evolution	A change over a long period of time
Fossil	The preserved remains of an organism (plant or animal)
Anthropologist	A scientist who studies the origins of mankind (Charles Darwin)
Adaptation	The process of changing to suit a particular environment
Variation	The difference between living things within a species e.g. hair colour
Inheritance	Passing on characteristics from parent to offspring
Natural Selection	When the most beneficial characteristics get passed onto later generations
Species	Organisms with similar characteristics
Extinct	A species that no longer exists in nature
Theory	A thought-out explanation based on observations
offspring	The young animal or plant that is produced by the reproduction of that species.
Characteristic	The distinguishing features or qualities that are specific to a species.
habitat	Refers to a specific area or place in which particular animals and plants can live.
Environment	An environment contains many habitats and includes areas where there are both living and non-living things.

Evolution

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!

 evolution	 fossil	 adaptation	 habitat	 offspring	 environment
 variation	 species	 extinct	 theory	 charles darwin	 inherit

What I should know...

Year 3

- To know how rocks are formed
- To describe in simple terms how fossils are formed

Year 5

- To know the life cycle of different livings

What I will know...

- I know how the Earth and living things have changed over time.
- Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents
- I know how fossils can be used to find out about the past
- I know how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment
- I know about evolution and can explain what it is.

Links to future topics...

Year 7

- Make links between environmental and inherited variation.
- Discuss the theory of natural selection and make links to selective breeding.
- Analyse the effect of competition and environment on adaptations.