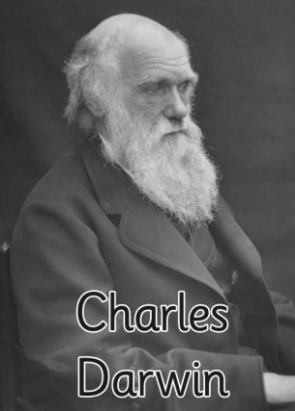


Evolution and Inheritance



Charles Darwin

What should we already know?

I know about variation.
 I know that living things can be classified
 I know about habitats and that animals adapt to them.



adaptation

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!

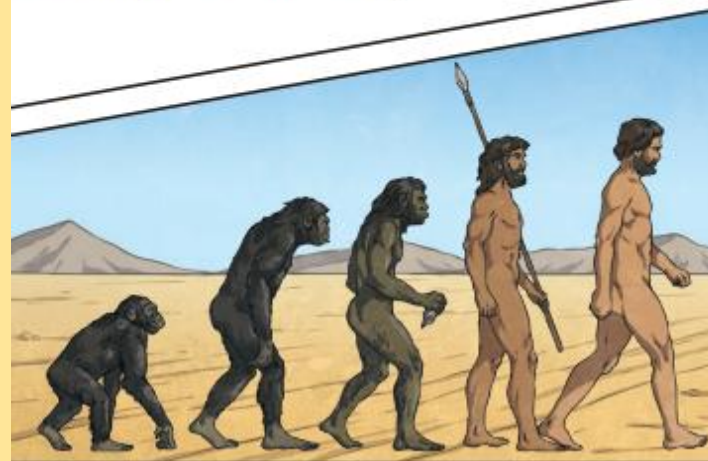


offspring



Offspring

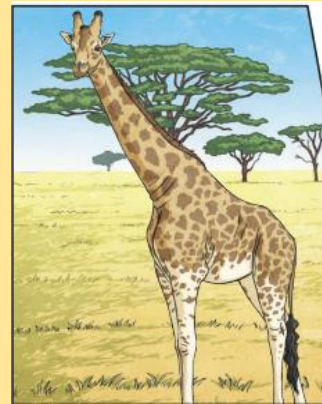
Animals and plants produce **offspring** that are similar but not identical to them. **Offspring** often look like their parents because features are passed on.



DNA

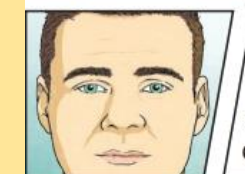
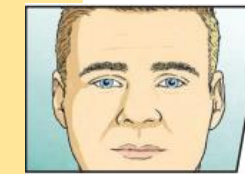
Key Vocabulary	
offspring	The young animal or plant that is produced by the reproduction of that species.
inheritance	This is when characteristics are passed on to offspring from their parents.
variations	The differences between individuals within a species.
characteristics	The distinguishing features 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 particular animals and plants can live.
environment	An environment contains many habitats and includes areas where there are both living and non-living things.

Key Vocabulary	
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 .
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.



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.

Adaptive Traits
Characteristics that are influenced by the **environment** the living things live in. These **adaptations** can develop as a result of many things, such as food and climate.



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.