



EVOLUTION AND INHERITANCE

Vocabulary

adaptation: a small change that a living thing goes through.

dinosaur: a particular kind of reptile that lived in prehistoric times.

evolution: change in living things over time.

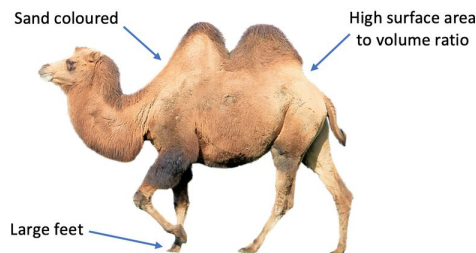
fossil: a living thing that has been turned to stone by one of several methods.

inherited: the way that a trait or characteristic is passed to offspring from parents natural.

selection: a process in which living things adapt themselves in order to survive, that they don't have any control over.

prehistoric: the time classed as 'before history' as it was so long ago it hasn't been recorded or written.

variety: differences between things as part of a whole group.



ANIMALS INCLUDING HUMANS

We are learning to:

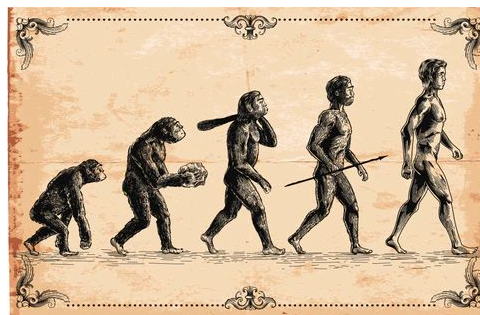
- Recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.
- Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.
- Identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.

WORKING SCIENTIFICALLY

- Identify scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas or arguments.

PRIOR LEARNING

- That we all have different characteristics like eye colour, nose shape and hair colour.
- That offspring look similar to their parents.



OVERVIEW

Building on what they learned about fossils in Year 3, children find out more about how living things have changed over time. They are introduced to the idea that characteristics are passed from parent to their offspring, but that they are not exactly the same. Children look at evolution and Charles' Darwin's theory of natural selection, as well as paleontologist Mary Anning's work with fossils.

FOSSILS

- Fossils tell us a lot about living things that died millions of years ago.
- The parts that become fossilised can tell us about how they looked, how big they were and even what they ate.

ADAPTATIONS

- One way that living things have adapted is to use camouflage colours to help them blend in with the background and stop predators seeing them. Sometimes predators use camouflage to avoid being seen by prey!
- Meerkats have dark circles around their eyes which act like sunglasses. This helps them to see even when the sun is shining very brightly!

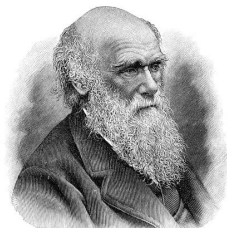


LET'S THINK LIKE SCIENTISTS

- Fossils come in a range of sizes. What is the biggest one ever found?
- How can you tell how old a fossil is? There is more than one way!
- There are some places in Britain that are better for finding fossils than others. Where are they and why are these the best places?

CHARLES DARWIN

- Charles Darwin was a British naturalist who was born in The Mount House, Shrewsbury on the 12th February 1809. A naturalist is someone who studies things in nature such as animals and plants and how they live. He is best known for his theory of evolution.



MARY ANNING

- Mary Anning was born on 21 May 1799 into a poor family in Lyme Regis, on the Dorset coast.
- The cliffs at Lyme were full of fossils from millions of years ago. They were revealed when the sea and storms broke up the rocks of cliffs.
- She made a living by collecting and selling these fossils.