UKS2: Evolution and Inheritance

Subject Specific Vocabulary

offspring	The young animal or plant that is produced by the reproduction of that species.
inheritance	When characteristics are passed on to offspring from their parents.
variation	Difference between individuals within a species.
characteristics	Distinguished features or qualities specific to a species.
adaptation	A trait or characteristic changing to increase the chances of living things surviving or reproducing.
habitat	Particular area or place where animals or plants can live.
environment	Contains many habitats and contains areas where there are both living and non-living things.
evolution	Adaptations 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.

Sticky Knowledge



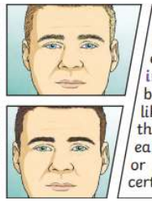
Offspring
Animals and plants produce **offspring** that are similar but not identical to them. **Offspring** often look like their parents because features are passed on.

Variation
In the same way that there is **variation** between parents and their **offspring**, you can see **variation** within any species, even plants.



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.





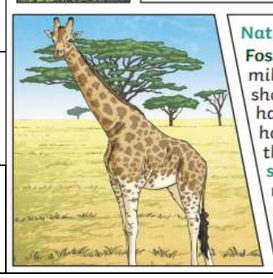
Inherited Traits
Eye colour is an example of an **inherited trait**, but so are things like hair colour, the shape of your earlobes and whether or not you can smell certain flowers.



Habitats
A good **habitat** should provide shelter, water, enough space and plenty of food.

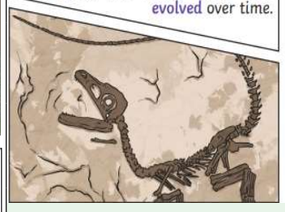
Environments
There are many types of **environment** around the world. Polar regions, deserts, rainforests, oceans, rivers, and grasslands are all **environments**.



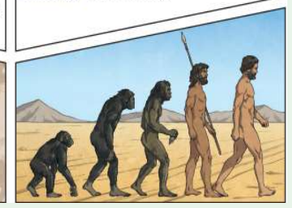


Natural Selection
Fossils of giraffes from millions of years ago show that they used to have shorter necks. They have gradually **evolved** through **natural selection** to have longer necks so that they can reach the top leaves on taller trees.

Fossils are 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!



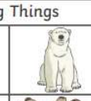
Crucial Connections

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Recommended Text

Aspirations

adaptive traits	Genetic features that help a living thing to survive.
inherited traits	Traits you get from your parents. Within a family you will often see similar traits e.g. curly hair.

Living Things		Habitat		Adaptive Traits
polar bear		arctic		Its white fur enables it to camouflage in the snow.
camel		desert		It has wide feet to make it easier to walk in the sand.
cactus		desert		It stores water in its stem.
toucan		rainforest		Its narrow tongue allows it to eat small fruit and insects.