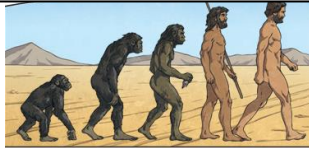


EVOLUTION AND INHERITANCE – RED SQUIRREL CLASS

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.
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.

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!



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.



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.

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 because 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.



Links to previous learning:

- Living things and plants
- Rocks and Fossils

Important people and places:

Charles Darwin, Alfred Wallace