

Year 6 Autumn Science – Evolution and Inheritance

Key Knowledge

Recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago

Identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.

Key Skills

To research their family tree

To learn about evolution theories through history

To see how animals have adapted to suit their environment

Do you remember learning?

About Living things and their habitats in year 4 and 5?

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.

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 changing to increase a living thing's chances of surviving and reproducing
habitat	A specific area or places 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
adaptive traits	Genetic features that help a living thing to survive
inherited traits	These are traits you get from your parents, within a family