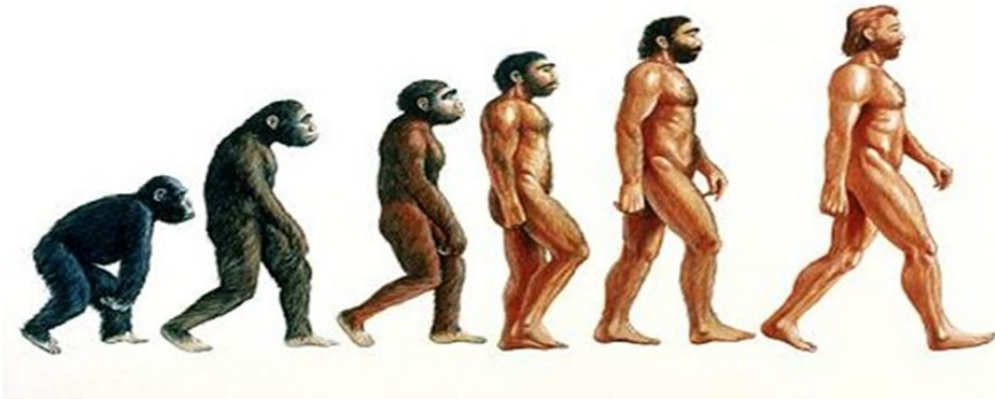


Y6 Science—Inheritance and evolution



By the end of the unit children will be able to:

- **Understand what fossils tell us about how living things have changed over time.**
- **Identify how characteristics are passed from parents to their offspring.**
- **Explain how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment and how may this lead to evolution**
- **Investigate how paleontologists and scientists have contributed to our understanding of the history of living things.**

Key facts:

Mary Anning (1799 - 1847) discovered many fossils including the first complete Plesiosaurs in Dorset.

Charles Darwin (1809 – 1882) studied hundreds of animal and plant species around the world. After nearly 30 years of research, he proposed his theory of evolution by natural selection.

Some characteristics are inherited from our parents through our genes (e.g. eye colour, hair colour) while other characteristics come from choices we make and the way that we live, such as where we live or the food we eat.

In all organisms, offspring inherit characteristics of both parents. When parents produce a child, their characteristics are mixed randomly to form offspring with features from both parents.

KEY VOCABULARY

Sedimentary rocks - Sedimentary rocks are made when sand, mud and pebbles get laid down in layers. Over time, these layers are squashed under more and more layers and are eventually turned to rock.

Fossil - the preserved remains or traces of once living animals and plants.

Palaeontology - the study of fossils.

Species - a category within the classification system. Living things of the same type belong to the same species.

Offspring - the young of an animal or plant.

Gene - a part of a cell that controls or influences the appearance, growth of a living thing.

Generation - the people in a family born and living during the same time.

Inherit - when something is passed on to the next generation.

Extinct - extinction of a particular animal or plant species occurs when there are no more individuals of that species alive anywhere in the world - the species has died out.

Habitat - the environment where a living thing lives.

Evolution - the process by which changes in plants and animals happen over time.

Adaptation - a change in a plant or animal that makes it better able to live in a particular environment.

Natural Selection - the process by which plants and animals that can adapt to



This unit of works builds upon our Y5 Science and Geography learning about habitats including rainforests. It also links to our Y6 RE unit: Creation and Science.