



Endpoints for Science

Year 6 – Evolution and Inheritance



Through this topic, we will learn how living things on Earth have changes over time and how fossils provide evidence for this. We will learn how characteristics are passed from parents to their offspring.

What I know and can explain

There are five kingdoms: animals, plants, fungi, protists and monerans

Members of each kingdom have features in common

The theory of evolution was developed in the 19th century by the naturalists Charles Darwin

The theory states that: all life on Earth has evolved from simple life forms to more complex ones over time; all life on Earth has common ancestors and is therefore related, and; living things with characteristics most suited to their environment are more likely to survive and reproduce.

Inheritance is when living things pass on characteristics following sexual reproduction, such as height, skin colour and eye colour

Variation is the natural differences in characteristics between individuals of the same species

An adaptation means that they have special features that help them to survive

Natural selection is also known as 'survival of the fittest'

Useful Vocabulary

Adaptation - A physical or behavioural characteristic that allows a living thing to better survive in its habitat

Ancestor - A living thing from which others have evolved

Characteristic - A quality or physical feature of a living thing

Classification - The arrangement of all living things into groups based on their shared characteristics

Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) - The inherited material inside all cells that carries the instructions needed for that living thing to develop and survive

Evolution - The process by which complex living things developed from simple life forms during the history of Earth

Gene - A small section of DNA that acts as instructions for a specific inherited characteristic, such as eye colour

Inheritance - When living things pass on characteristics to their offspring following reproduction

Variation - The differences in characteristics between individuals of the same species