

Science Topic: Evolution and Inheritance

Year 6 Summer 1



Prior Learning

In previous years, we learnt that all living things have seven life processes and that the condition of an environment can affect which living things can survive in it and some animals have adapted to survive in their habitats. We also found out that fossils form when an animal or plant dies and is covered by silt or mud, which eventually hardens due to pressure and movement of the Earth's surface.

What? (Key vocabulary)

Evolution	The way in which plants and animals have gradually changed and adapted over millions of years.
Natural Selection	The process where living things best adapted to their environment survive and pass on their genetic traits , whereas those which do not adapt well do not survive.
Variation	The differences in characteristics between individual living things of the same species, eg. difference in eye colour.
Homo Sapiens	The scientific name for the modern human species. This is the only human species still in existence on Earth.
Homo Erectus	An early now-extinct human species that lived up to 2 million years ago primarily in Africa and Asia.
Homo Neanderthalensis	A now-extinct human species that emerged around 200,000 years ago primarily in Europe and Asia.
Cross-breeding	When reproduction between two species with different characteristics creates offspring with characteristics from both parents.
Genetics	The study of how genes and traits are passed from one generation to the next.
Dominant Gene	A gene that is stronger than others so it presents more often in different species, eg. brown eyes in humans.
Recessive Gene	A gene that is weaker than others so it presents less often in different species, eg. green eyes in humans.
Traits	Characteristics that make living things different from others.

Who? (Significant people)

Charles Darwin	Discovered natural selection on his research trips studying the origins of different animal and plant species.
Mary Anning	Discovered many fossils of pre-historic creatures, and found and reconstructed the first complete fossil of an Ichthyosaur.