



Year 6 Science - Evolution and Inheritance Knowledge Organiser

Subject Specific Vocabulary

adaptation	The process of change that a living thing undergoes to be better suited to its environment.
characteristic	A distinguishing feature of a person or thing.
environment	The natural world or ecosystem.
evolution	The theory that describes how all life forms developed from simpler life forms by changes that took millions of years.
fossil	The remains or trace of a living animal or plant from a long time ago.
inherit	To receive through a parent's genes.
natural selection	A natural process of evolution in which the organisms that are best adapted to their environment survive and are able to reproduce, while those that are weak leave fewer or no offspring.
offspring	The child or young of a particular human, animal, or plant.
reproduce	To have young or offspring.
species	A group of living things that can mate with one another but not with those of other groups.
trait	A characteristic or quality that makes a person or animal different from others.
variation	A slightly different form or version of something.

Key Knowledge By the end of this unit I will know

Fossils are the preserved remains or traces of dead organisms. They show us how living things and the environment have changed since the time they were alive.

Evolution explains how the living things on our planet today have slowly developed from simpler life forms that lived millions of years ago.

When living things reproduce they pass on characteristics to their offspring. This is known as inheritance.

Living things are adapted to their habitats. This means that they have special features that help them to survive.

The animals and plants in one habitat are suited to live there and may not be able to survive in other habitats. When a habitat changes, the animals and plants that live there are affected.

Interesting Facts

It took Charles Darwin, an English naturalist, 20 years to write and publish his original book *On the Origin of Species* that explained the process of evolution.

No two animals are the same, even if they belong to the same species.

There are over 340 breeds of dog, yet they all come from one kind of wild wolf that existed many years ago.

Humans share the same five-fingered bone structure in their hands with lots of other animals that have paws, wings or flippers, such as lemurs and bats.