Year 6 Science - Spring 2 – ***Evolution & Inheritance***

What I should already know

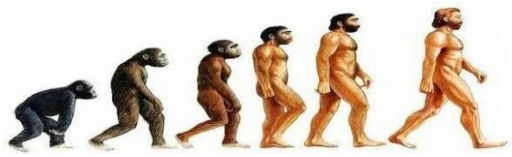
- Understanding of the importance of a habitat
- Understanding of how habitats can change
- Understanding of food chains
- Understand the lifecycles of a variety of plants & animals
- Classification of living things based on specific and common characteristics

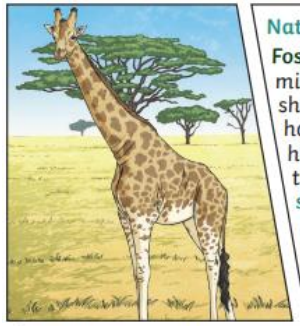
What I will know by the end of the unit

Describe how living things have adapted and evolved over time.

- I can define the terms evolution and inheritance.
- I know that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.
- I recognise that living things have adapted and evolved over time to survive within the environment.
- I understand that organisms reproduce and offspring inherit similar characteristics.
- I know that variation exists within a population and between offspring of some plants.

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.

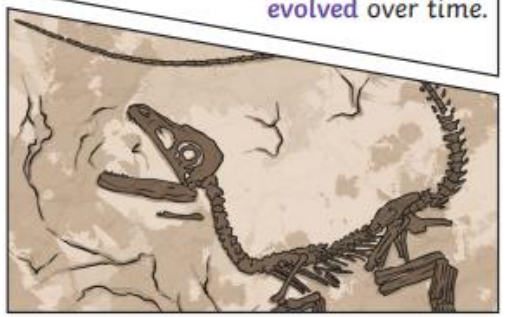




Natural Selection

Fossils of giraffes from millions of years ago show that they used to have shorter necks. They have gradually evolved through natural selection to have longer necks so that they can reach the top leaves on taller trees.

Fossils are the preserved remains, or partial remains, of ancient animals and plants. **Fossils** let scientists know how plants and animals used to look millions of years ago. This is proof that living things have evolved over time.



Key People:
Mary Anning
Charles Darwin
Alfred Russel Wallace

Key Vocabulary

adaption	a change in structure or function that improves the chance of survival for an animal or plant within a given environment
ancestor	an early type of animal or plant from which a later, usually dissimilar, type has evolved
characteristics	the qualities or features that belong to them and make them recognisable
environment	all the circumstances, people, things, and events around them that influence their life
evolution	a process of change that takes place over many **generations**, during which **species** of animals, plants, or insects slowly change some of their physical **characteristics** to enable them to survive better in their environment
fossils	hard remains of a **prehistoric** animal or plant that are found inside a rock
inherited	if you inherit a **characteristic** you are born with it, because your parents or **ancestors** also had it
natural selection	a process by which **species** of animals and plants are best **adapted** to their **environment survive** and **reproduce**, while those that are less well **adapted** die out
offspring	a person's children or an animal's young
species	a class of plants or animals whose members have the same main **characteristics** and are able to breed with each other
theory	a formal idea that is intended to explain something
variation	a change or slight difference