Year 6 Science Knowledge Organiser Spring Term 2023

This term, in Science, we will learn about variation and adaptation. We will learn what traits can be inherited, and how plants and animals can adapt to their environment in order to survive. We will explore different theories of evolution and examine the scientific evidence from plants and animals that has been gathered to support the theory of evolution.

Key Vocabulary

offspring *inheritance*

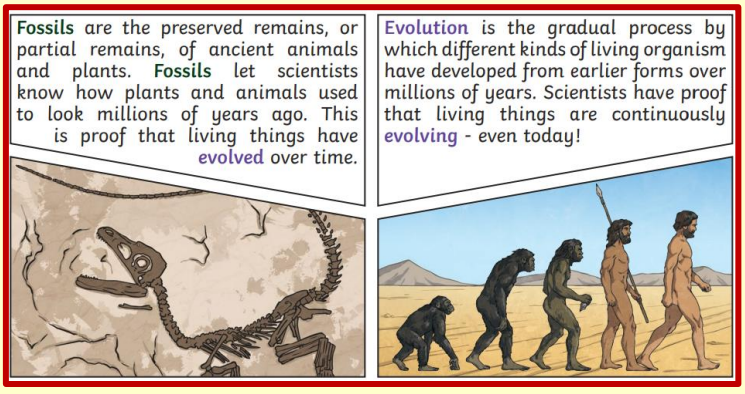
variation *characteristics*

adaptation *habitat*

environment *evolution*

natural selection *fossil*

traits



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.

Charles Darwin (1809 - 1882)

English Naturalist and Geologist, Charles Darwin, brought together the ideas of natural selection, adaptation and a single origin of life. He went on to state that humans were not separate from all living things but had developed through the same evolutionary process. He emphasised survival of the fittest and the competition that allowed certain varieties to survive due to inherited traits. The reason Darwin is known for evolutionary theory is the way that he combined the ideas so that they made sense – there was a single origin of life for all living things, that living things changed through adaptations that helped them to survive better in their environment and that these adaptations led to evolution from the original living thing to the ones we see now.