



Science – Evolution



Concept – Evolution – Understand reproduction and how living things have adapted over time

Vocabulary

- **Inheritance:** passing on traits from parents to their children.
- **Variation:** being different or having something unique.
- **Evolution:** a very slow process whereby species change gradually over many generations.
- **Natural Selection:** only the members of a species who have the features best suited for their habitat survive.
- **Adaptive Traits:** characteristics that help living things survive better in their environment.



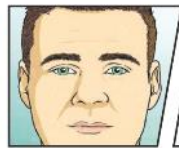
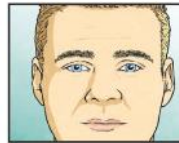
Offspring
Animals and plants produce **offspring** that are similar but not identical to them. **Offspring** often look like their parents because features are passed on.

Variation
In the same way that there is **variation** between parents and their **offspring**, you can see **variation** within any species, even plants.



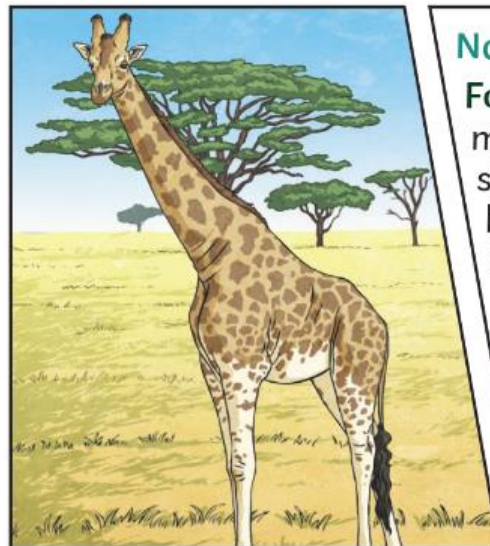
Adaptive Traits

Characteristics that are influenced by the **environment** the living things live in. These **adaptations** can develop as a result of many things, such as food and climate.



Inherited Traits

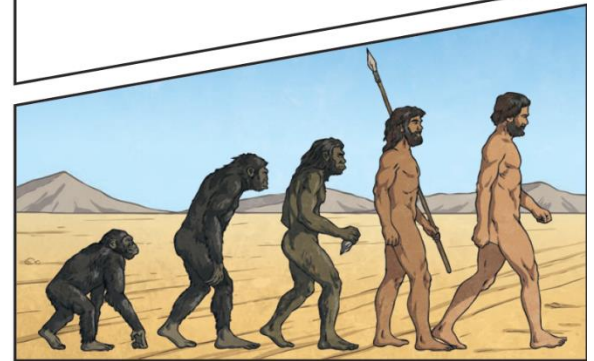
Eye colour is an example of an **inherited trait**, but so are things like hair colour, the shape of your earlobes and whether or not you can smell certain flowers.



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.

Evolution is the gradual process by which different kinds of living organism have developed from earlier forms over millions of years. Scientists have proof that living things are continuously **evolving** - even today!



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.

