

Science Knowledge Organiser – Evolution and Inheritance

Key Enquiry Question: How do some animals adapt to survive?

National Curriculum

- Know about evolution and can explain what it is.
- Know how fossils can be used to find out about the past.
- Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents
- Identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution- recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago



Key Vocabulary	Meaning
offspring	The young animal or plant that is produced by the reproduction of that species.
inheritance	This is when characteristics are passed on to offspring from their parents.
variations	The differences between individuals within a species.
characteristics	The distinguishing features or qualities that are specific to a species
adaption	Is a trait or characteristic changing to increase a living thing's chances of surviving and reproducing.
habitat	A specific place or area in which particular animals and plants can live.
environment	Contains many habitats and includes areas where there are both living and non-living things.

Sticky Knowledge

- 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 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 are 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.

