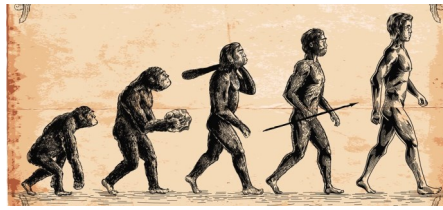


Evolution and Inheritance

Year 6



Key Questions

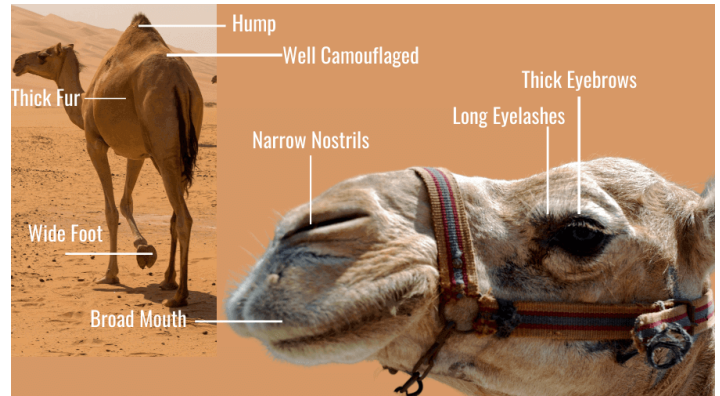
- How have living things changed over time?
- How do we know about living things that inhabited the earth millions of years ago?
- What is meant by 'offspring' and how do offspring vary?
- How are plants and animals suited to their environment?



KEY CONCEPT A fossil is a preserved remains, impression, or trace of any one-living thing from a past geological age.

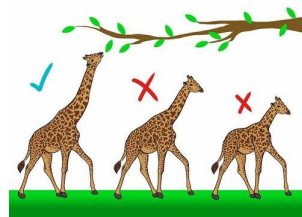
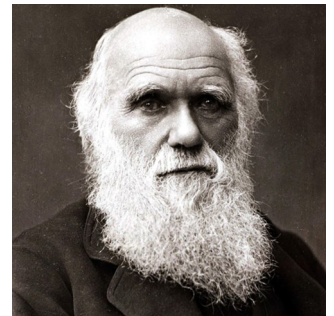
KEY CONCEPT: ADAPTATION

Adaptation is the unique characteristics which allow animals to survive their environment.



SCIENTIST FOCUS: CHARLES DARWIN

Charles Darwin (1809-1882) published his theory of evolution based on 'survival of the fittest'. Darwin theorised that all living things are struggling to survive, and those with the most helpful traits for their environment tend to survive. These living things pass their helpful traits to their young.



Tortoise with saddle-shaped shell



Tortoise with dome-shaped shell

Key vocabulary

- Characteristics - the distinguishing features or qualities specific to a species
- Inheritance - when characteristics are passed on to offspring from their parents
- Adaptation - a trait changing to increase a living thing's chance of survival and reproducing
- Evolution - adaptations that take place in species over a long period of time
- Natural selection - the process where organisms that are better suited to their environment tend to survive and produce more offspring
- Fossil - the remains of an imprint of a prehistoric plant or animal, embedded in rock and preserved
- Extinction - when a plant or animal dies out and there are no more left
- Genes - a unit of heredity ; they carry information about a living thing and are passed from parent to offspring.

KEY CONCEPT Offspring are the young which have been reproduced by an animal. Different characteristics of the offspring when compared to parents is down to combination of genes.



SCIENTIST FOCUS: MARY ANNING

Mary Anning (1799-1847) was a fossil collector and palaeontologist who discovered the first plesiosaur.

