









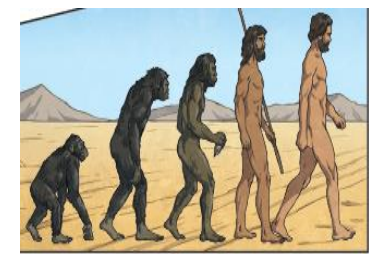
Crofton Junior School – Curriculum Knowledge Organiser

Unit of Work	Science – Biology – Year 6
Key Strand	Investigate Evolution and Inheritance
Overview of the Unit of Work	This concept involves understanding that organisms come into existence, adapt, change and evolve and become extinct.
Prior Learning & Vocabulary	Year 2: suited/suitable Year 3: fossils
Sticky Knowledge	<p>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.</p> <p>Variation: In the same way that there is variation between parents and their offspring. You can see variation within any species, even plants.</p> <p>Adaptive traits: Characteristics that are influenced by the environment. These adaptations can develop as a result of many things, such as food and climate.</p> <p>Inherited traits: Eye colour is an example of an inherited trait, but so are characteristics like hair colour, the shape of your earlobes and whether or not you can smell flowers.</p> <p>Environments: There are many types of environments around the world. Polar regions, deserts, rainforests, oceans, rivers and grasslands are all environments. Animals have particular adaptive traits for the environments.</p> <p>Natural selection: The process whereby organisms better adapted to their environment tend to survive and produce more offspring. The theory of its action was first fully expounded by Charles Darwin, and it is now regarded as the main process that brings about evolution. Example: 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.</p>

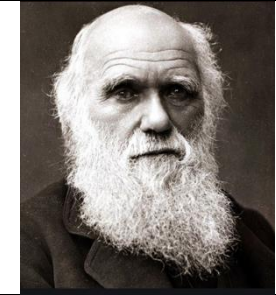
Living Things		Habitat	Adaptive Traits
polar bear		arctic	 Its white fur enables it to camouflage in the snow.
camel		desert	 It has wide feet to make it easier to walk in the sand.
cactus		desert	 It stores water in its stem.
toucan		rainforest	 Its narrow tongue allows it to eat small fruit and insects.



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. 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!



Charles Darwin (1809-1882) introduced the theory of evolution. He was a famous English naturalist (an expert in studying nature), biologist (an expert in living things) and geologist (an expert in rocks and fossils).



New Vocabulary

evolution, inherit/inheritance, suited, adapted/adaptation, offspring, reproduction, characteristics, vary/variation, natural selection, adaptive traits, inherited traits

Post Learning

KS3: genetics and evolution