

Evolution and Adaptation

Year 5

Purpose

Have you ever looked at the natural world and wondered why it exhibits such wonderful diversity? Learning about the theory of evolution and the process of adaptation will help you to understand where it comes from.

Charles Darwin is undoubtedly one of the most influential scientists the world has ever seen. Exploring his work will help you to understand the scientific process and provide a foundation for future learning in the field of biology.

Vocabulary

adaptation

characteristics

evolution

offspring

inherit

reproduction

suited

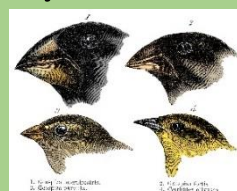
environment

species

Key Facts

Charles Darwin

Darwin was an evolutionary scientist, who studied different animal and plant species from many countries. This enabled him to see how adaptations could come about and provided the basis for his theory of evolution. His work on the finches was some of his most famous.



Living things have changed over time (adaptation)

Animals change over time and adapt to the surroundings in which they live. Darwin observed that there were many forms of finches that had different beak sizes and shapes.

Fossils provide information about living things from the past

Fossils are the impressions of the remains of prehistoric animals or plants embedded in rock and preserved in petrified form. Studying them provides information about living things that lived a long time ago.

What is inheritance?

Inheritance refers to the characteristic traits that are genetically passed to offspring from their parents e.g. hair colour, eye colour, height etc. Darwin refers to this as natural selection when the strongest traits survive over generations.

Prior Learning

Identifying animals and plants using classification keys.

Animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.

Animals have offspring which grow into adults.

The basic needs of animals for survival (water, food, air).

Some animals have skeletons for support, protection and movement.

Food chains, food webs and the role of producers, predators and prey.

Useful Links and Media

[What is evolution? - BBC Bitesize](#)

Excellent film which explores the process of evolution.

[Evolution and inheritance | Natural History Museum \(nhm.ac.uk\)](http://nhm.ac.uk)

A variety of games and activities focused on evolution and inheritance.

[Charles Darwin Facts for Kids \(kiddle.co\)](http://kiddle.co)

Learn more about Charles Darwin.

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