



Leeds East  
Primary Partnership  
ACADEMIC YEAR 2021  
Cross Gates  
Primary School

# Evolution and Inheritance



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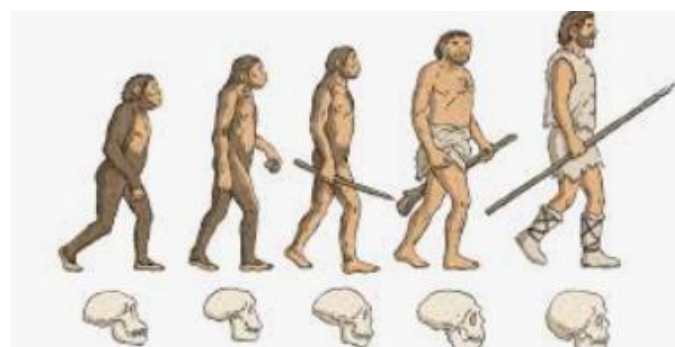
Year Group: 6









Subject Focus: Science

Term: Summer 1

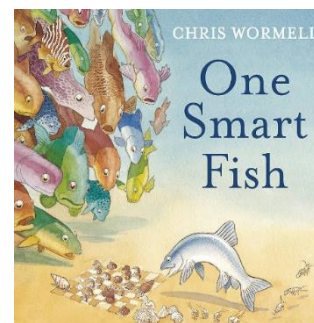
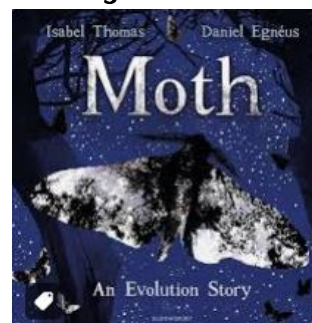
## Key facts

- A fossil is the preserved remains or traces of a dead organism. The process by which a fossil is formed is called fossilisation.
- After an animal dies, the soft parts of its body decompose leaving the hard parts, like the skeleton, behind. This becomes buried by small particles of rock called sediment.
- Fossils can teach us about animals that lived in the past and changes to the earth. For example, rocks that once formed the seafloor might be forced up to form a mountain range. This means that you can sometimes find the fossils of sea creatures at the peak of a mountain.
- When living things reproduce, they pass on characteristics to their offspring. This is known as inheritance. This is why children often look like their parents, or why a mix of two dog breeds will produce offspring which has some characteristics from each parent.
- Adaptation means how living things are specialised to suit their environment. An African elephant, for example, lives in a hot habitat and has very large ears that it flaps to keep cool.
- Evolution is the way that living things change over very long periods of time.
- Charles Darwin came up with the theory of evolution - he published it in a book called 'The Origin of the Species' in 1859.
- The theory states that animals adapt over time - the most successfully adapted animals are the ones which survive and procreate. This leads to changes in animal species over time (evolution).



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.

## Exciting books / web links:



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvhhvcw>

<https://leafuk.org/farmertime/home>

<https://www.linnean.org/learning/teaching/primary/discovery-kits/evolution-kit>

## Key words:

adaptation	A trait changing in order to increase a living things chance of survival.
characteristics	The feature or qualities that are specific to a particular species.
evolution	Adaptation over a long period of time.
fossils	The remains or impression of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded on a rock.
gene	Carry the information that determines your traits.
inheritance	This is when characteristics are passed to offspring from their parents.
natural selection	The process where living things that are adapted to their environment tend to survive and produce more offspring.
offspring	A young animal or plant that is produced by the reproduction of that species.
species	A group of similar organisms that are able to reproduce.
variation	The difference between individuals within the same species.

## Parents as partners:

- Borrow and use a Linnean Society Discovery Kit
- Create a toilet paper timeline to show how long-ago dinosaurs roamed the Earth
- Visit a farm or use the Farmer Time program to find out about how farmers use the science around inherited traits to create the best produce
- Visit Harewood House – the bird garden has penguins which are adapted to warmer climates than the arctic and there are a broad range of plants from different environments in the gardens.