



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.

Variation
In the same way that there is **variation** between parents and their **offspring**, you can see **variation** within any species, even plants.

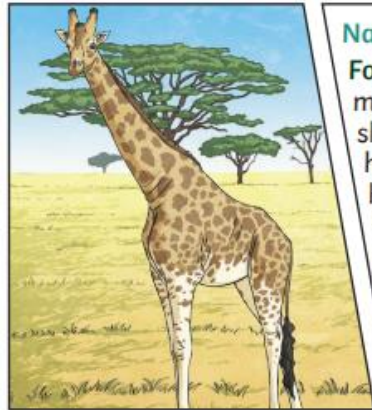
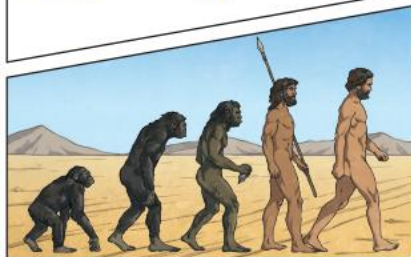


Adaptive Traits
Characteristics that are influenced by the **environment** the living things live in. These **adaptations** can develop as a result of many things, such as food and climate.



Inherited Traits
Eye colour is an example of an **inherited trait**, but so are things like hair colour, the shape of your earlobes and whether or not you can smell certain flowers.

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!



Natural Selection
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.

Key Vocabulary

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.
adaptation	An adaptation is a trait (or characteristic) changing to increase a living thing's chances of surviving and reproducing.
evolution	Adaptation over a very long time.
natural selection	The process where organisms that are better adapted to their environment tend to survive and produce more offspring .
fossil	The remains or imprint of a prehistoric plant or animal, embedded in rock and preserved.
adaptive traits	Genetic features that help a living thing to survive.
inherited traits	These are traits you get from your parents. Within a family, you will often see similar traits, e.g. curly hair.

Try it at home

1. Create a poster about your favourite animal and how it is adapted to survive in it's natural habitat.
2. Draw or make a model of a future version of your favourite animal. How do you think it will evolve in the future?



1. Tick the statement that is true.			5. Draw something that represents evolution.	
Offspring are always identical to their parents.				
Offspring are never identical to their parents.				
Offspring are sometimes identical to their parents.				
2. Which of these can be inherited by offspring from their parents?			6. Match the word to its meaning	
Eye colour				
Tattoos				
Height				
Hair style				
3. Which of these adaptations would be good for living in a desert?			Offspring	
Thick fur		Variation		A feature or quality belonging to a living thing.
Sand coloured skin		Adaptation		A young animal or plant that is produced by the reproduction of its species (babies).
Ability to store water for a long time		Characteristics		Differences between individuals within a species.
4. <i>Animals that are better adapted to their environment are more likely to survive and have offspring. Animals that are not adapted to their environment are more likely to die and not have offspring.</i> What is this theory called?		Natural selection		The change of a species over a very long time due to adaptations and natural selection.
Survive or die		Evolution		The process where a living thing that is better adapted to its environment is more likely to survive and have offspring.
Natural survival				
Natural Selection				

