Year 6 Spring 2 – Evolution

Learning objectives for this topic

- Identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.
- Recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.
- To understand how humans have evolved over time, and how human behaviour can affect change in species over time.

Prior learning

• Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other. (Y2 -Living things and their habitats)

• Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults. (Y2 - Animals, including humans)

• Explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal. (Y3 - Plants)

• Describe in simple terms how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock. (Y3 - Rocks)

• Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things. (Y4 - Living things and their habitats)

• Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals. (Living things and their habitats - Y5)

Key vocabulary

Adaptation – The process of change so that an organism or species can become better suited to their environment

Environment – The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives

Evolution – The process by which different kinds of living organism are believed to have developed from earlier forms during the history of the earth

Fossil – The remains or impression of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock and preserved

Inherit – To gain a quality, characteristic or predisposition genetically from a parent or ancestor

Offspring – A person's child or children/ an animal's young

Selective breeding – The process by which humans use animal breeding and plant breeding to develop selective characteristics by choosing particular animals and plants

Trace fossil – Indirect evidence of life in the past such as the footprints, tracks, burrows and waste left behind by animals

Variation – the differences between the individual characterisitics inherited from our parents

Future learning

Heredity as the process by which genetic information is transmitted from one generation to the next. (KS3)

• A simple model of chromosomes, genes and DNA in heredity, including the part played by Watson, Crick, Wilkins and Franklin in the development of the DNA model. (KS3)

• The variation between species and between individuals of the same species means some organisms compete more successfully, which can drive natural selection. (KS3)

• Changes in the environment may leave individuals within a species, and some entire species, less well adapted to compete successfully and reproduce, which in turn may lead to extinction. (KS3)

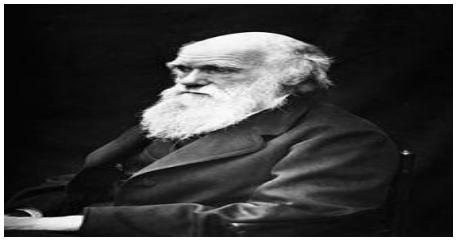
Useful websites to search for

What is evolution? - BBC Bitesize

Evolution Primary Resources | National Geographic Kids (natgeokids.com)

Key scientists and people

Charles Darwin



Mary Anning