

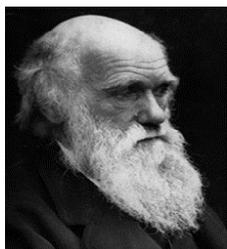
year 6 – Evolution and Inheritance

Key Facts

Animals and plants produce offspring that are similar but not identical to them. Offspring often look like their parents because features are passed on.

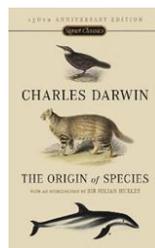


Eye colour is an example of an inherited trait, but so are things like hair colour, the shape of your earlobes and whether you have dimples or not.



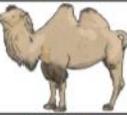
Charles Robert Darwin (12 February 1809 – 19 April 1882) was an English naturalist. He is famous for his work on the theory of evolution. His book 'On the Origin of Species' (1859) did two things.

First, it provided evidence that suggests evolution has taken place. Second, it proposed a theory to explain how evolution may have worked. That theory is called natural selection.



Key Vocabulary

adaption	Changing a trait or characteristic to increase a living things chances of surviving and reproducing.
adaptive traits	Genetic features that help a living thing to survive.
breeding	The mating and production of offspring by animals.
characteristics	The distinguishing features or qualities that are specific to a species.
environment	The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal or plant lives. It contains many habitats, living and dead things.
evolution	The change in the characteristics of a species over several generations. Adapting from earlier forms in history.
fossil	The remains or impression of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock and preserved.
habitat	A specific area or place in which particular animals and plants live.
inheritance	When characteristics are passed genetically on to an offspring from the parents.
natural selection	When organisms better adapted to their environment survive and produce offspring while others don't.
offspring	The young animal or plant produced by the reproduction of that species.
Selective breeding	When humans choose parent animals or plants with selected characteristics to breed together and produce offspring with more desirable characteristics.
variations	The differences between individuals within the same species.

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 let scientists know how plants and animals looked millions of years ago. This is proof that things have evolved over time.

