



Brookfield Primary School Knowledge Organiser

Year 6: Science – Evolution and inheritance

Science is the study of the world around us through observation, description, investigation and experimentation.

Key Facts:

- Offspring (babies) receive some of the characteristics from their parents. All animals and most plants receive half of their traits from their father and half from their mother.
- Adaptations are characteristics that improve an organism's chance of survival. These are usually functional traits that have been maintained through evolution and natural selection and passed down through generations.
- 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.
- Over very long time periods (usually tens, hundreds of thousands or millions of years) adaptations can make animals so different that they become separate species. By comparing the similarities and differences of various species including fossils, we can work out how one species evolved from another over millions of years.

Where to look:



- BBC Bitesize
- Photographs
- Library



Things to find out about:



Why was the work that Mary Anning did so important in the area of evolution?

General Scientific Words/Phrases:

Enquire, investigate, observe, explore, experiment, describe, record, analyse, compare, evidence, record

Key Vocabulary to use in this topic:

Word:	Definition:
Inherit	When features are passed on from parents to offspring.
Adaptation	Changes or special features of a living thing to help it live in a habitat.
Fossil	The remains or impression of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock.
Charles Darwin	An English naturalist, best known for his theory of evolution.
Evolved	How living things gradually change over time.
Ancestor	A person/living thing an organism is descended from.
Mary Anning	A famous palaeontologist who discovered fossils on the Jurassic Coast.
Palaeontologist	A scientist that studies the remains of plants and animals found as fossils.
Ichthyosaurus	A large marine reptile that lived 201-194 million years ago.
Epiphytes	Plants that grow on the surface of other plants.
Natural selection	Survival and reproduction of the fittest.
Homo sapiens	The scientific name for the human species.



