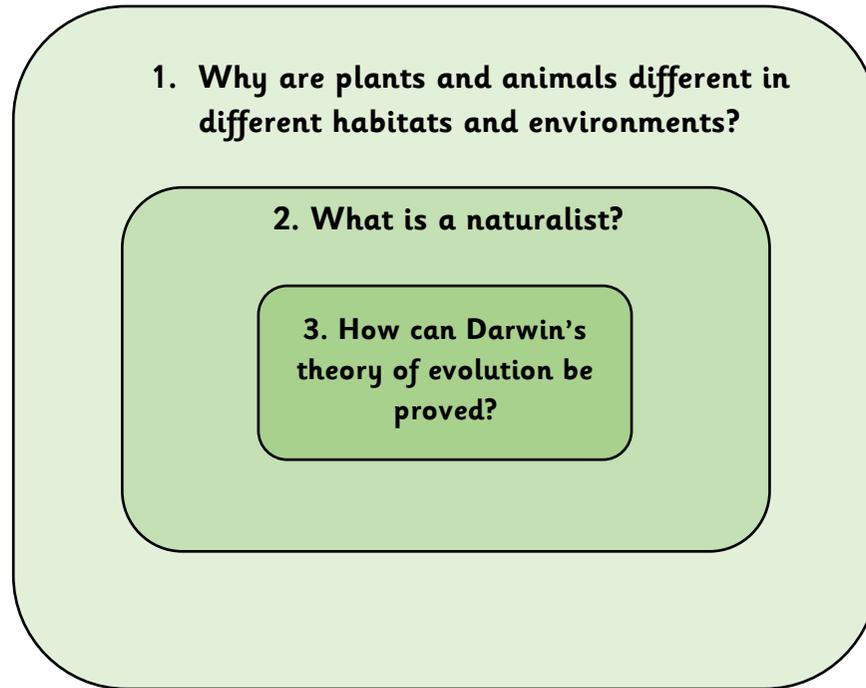


1

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3



What I have learnt before: Year 3 – Rocks Year 3/4/5/6 – Animals (Including Humans) / Living Things and Their Habitats Year 6 - Classification


In this Unit of Study, you will learn about variation and adaptation. You will be able to explore how both Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace separately developed their theories of evolution. You will examine the scientific evidence from plants and animals that has been gathered to support the theory of evolution. This builds on work about fossils, living things and how they are classified, and how their physiology and diet is suited to the environments and habitats that they live

Key Vocabulary:

Words	Definitions
Evolution	The process of change to animal and plant species over long periods of time, or how plant species and animals have developed from generation to generation.
Adaptation	The process by which living creatures (animals and plants) adapt or evolve to survive in their environment and to live amongst a specific group of other living things.
Characteristics	The distinguishing features or qualities that are specific to a species.
Inheritance	This is when characteristics are passed on to offspring from their parents.
Inherited traits	These are traits you get from your parents. Within a family, you will often see similar traits. E.g. curly hair, shape of features.
Adaptive traits	Genetic features that help a living thing survive.
Fossil	The remains or imprint of a prehistoric plant or animal, embedded in rock and preserved.
Extinction	When an animal or plant species dies out and there are no more left.
Natural selection	The process where organisms that are better adapted to their environment tend to survive and produce more offspring.

What skills will I be using?

Questioning



Predicting



Testing & Investigating



Observing & Measuring



Recording



Analysing



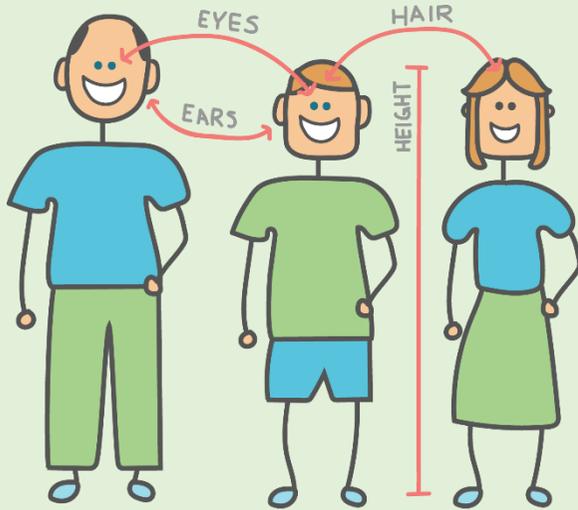
Evaluating



1. Key Facts and Ideas:



Living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.



Animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.

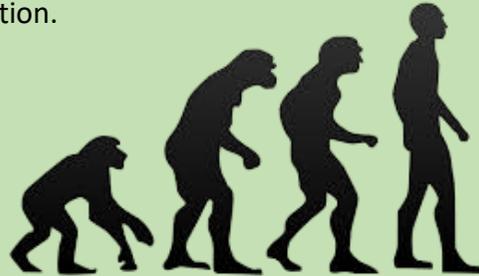


2. Key Facts and Ideas:

Philosophers, thinkers and scientists have debated how living things adapt and change over time for thousands of years.

A naturalist is a type of scientist who focuses on natural history, which is the study of living things.

Charles Darwin was a famous Victorian naturalist who brought these ideas together in his Theory of Evolution.



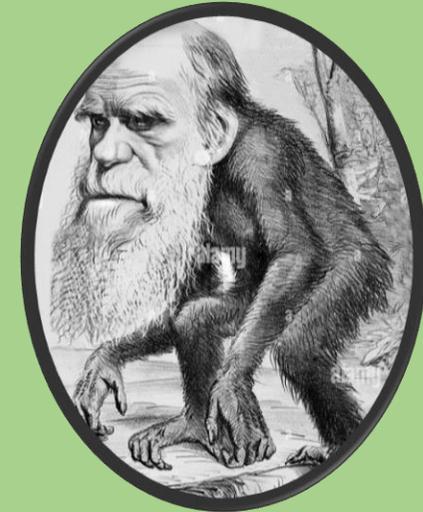
Darwin observed that there were many different forms of finch that had different beak sizes and shape. Once he considered the food source for each finch, he noted the reason for these adaptations.



3. Key Facts and Ideas:

His ideas were contentious at the time as they went against many traditional religious beliefs.

His theory is now accepted as a key scientific breakthrough in our understanding of the natural world and mankind's place in it.



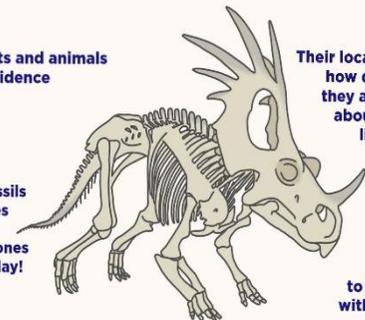
Living things have changed over time and fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.

EVIDENCE OF EVOLUTION: FOSSILS

Fossilized plants and animals can serve as evidence of evolution.

Their location on Earth and how deep underground they are can tell us a lot about how the species lived and how long ago it was alive.

Scientists use fossils to find similarities between ancient species and the ones that are alive today!



We expect an ancestral species to share some traits with modern species.

1. Why are plants and animals different in different habitats and environments?

2. What is a naturalist?

3. How can Darwin's theory of evolution be proved?