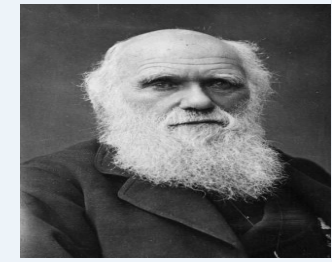


Science Year 6 Summer: Evolution and Inheritance

Key vocabulary to learn and use in your learning

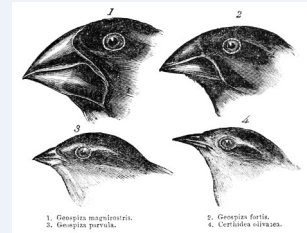
Word	Definition
adaptation	The process of change so that an organism or species can become better suited to their environment.
genes	A unit of heredity that is passed from a parent to their offspring.
offspring	A persons child/children/an animal's young.
inheritance	This is when characteristics are passed on to offspring from their parents .
characteristics	The distinguishing features or qualities that are specific
chromosomes	Tiny structures inside cells made from DNA and protein.
natural selection	The process where organisms that are best suited to their environment survive and pass on their genetic traits.
evolution	The process by which different kinds of living organisms are believed to have developed from earlier forms in history.
vestigial structures.	Structures inherited that do not have any function today e.g. appendix, whales' hind legs.

Charles Darwin— 1809-1882—an English naturalist, geologist and biologist, best known for his contributions to the science of evolution. His proposition that all species of life have descended over time from common ancestors is now widely accepted, and considered.



Evidence for Evolution

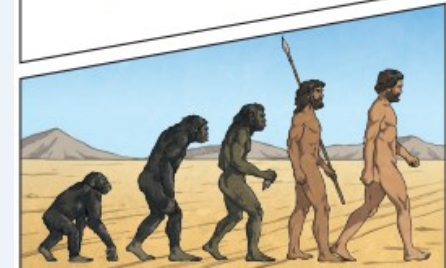
On the Galapagos Islands, Charles Darwin found differences between finches on different islands. They had adapted their size and shape of beaks according to the food available.



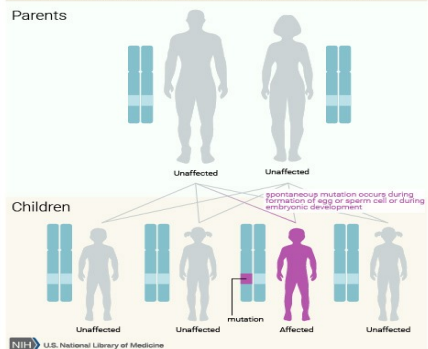
Fossils are the preserved remains, or partial remains, of ancient animals and plants. **Fossils** let scientists know how plants and animals used to look millions of years ago. This is proof that living things have **evolved** over time.



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!



Autosomal Dominant - New Mutation



Inheritance is genetic, not environmental e.g. if two blonde haired parents dyed their hair black this does not mean that their child will have black hair.

Some features can be new to the offspring. These are called mutation. This is why we are not exact copies of our parents.

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.