Brooklands Primary School

Knowledge Organiser – Science: Evolution and Inheritance





Fossils

These can provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.



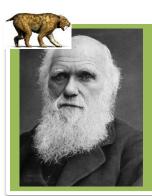
Living Things

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

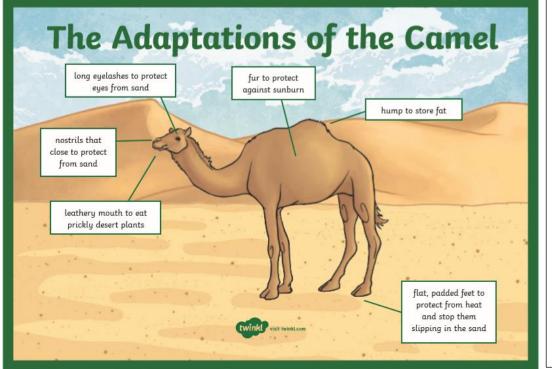
Inheritance

Humans and animals inherit particular characteristics from their parents such as eye colour, fur and size

Tier 3 vocabulary	
Adaptation	The process of change so that an organism or species can
	become better suited to their environment.
Body fossil	Preserved remains of the body of the actual animal or
	plant itself.
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, borings and waste left
	behind by animals.
Cast/Mould Fossil	A mould fossil what is left when an animal leaves an
	impression after it has decomposed. A cast fossil is
	formed when sediment and minerals fill the mould.



Charles Darwin was an English Scientist who was famous for his theory of evolution. In 1831 he set sail on the HMS Beagle and spent 5 years journeying around different countries and islands, particularly the Galapagas Islands. He studied plant and animal specimens and formed his ideas about evolution by looking at the different beaks of finches. In 1859, Darwin published his findings in a controversial book called 'On the Origin of Species'.



Animals adapt to their own environment over time by developing certain features. Other animals and plants that have adapted include penguins, polar bears and cacti.

Animals have become extinct for a number of reasons including lack of food, the interference of humans or a lack of breeding.

