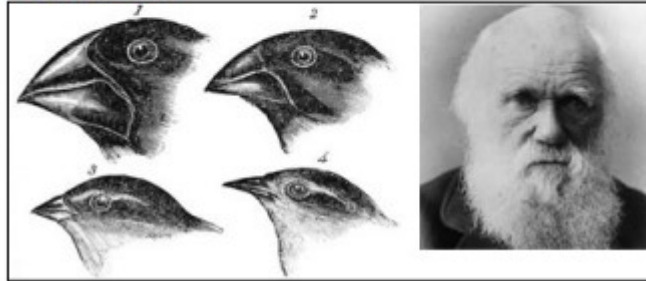


Year 6—Summer 1

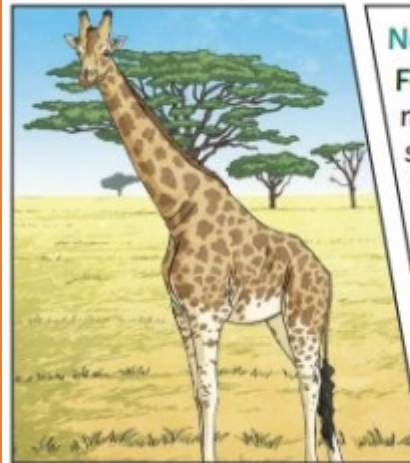
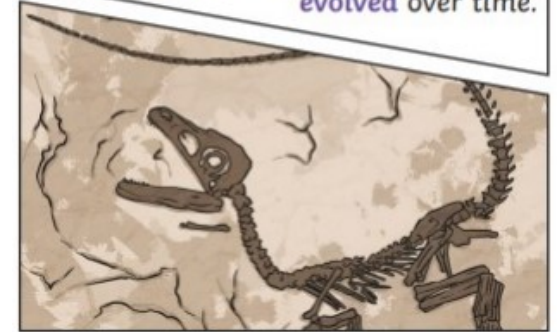
Evolution and Inheritance

adaptation	change in structure or function that improves the chance of survival for an animal or plant within a given environment
characteristics	the qualities or features that belong to them and make them recognisable
evolution	a process of change that takes place over many generations, during which species of animals, plants, or insects slowly change some of their physical characteristics
species	a class of plants or animals whose members have the same main characteristics and are able to breed with each other
natural selection	a process by which species of animals and plants that are best adapted to their environment survive and reproduce, while those that are less well adapted die out
reproduction	when an animal or plant produces one or more individuals similar to itself
extinct	no longer has any living members, either in the world or in a particular place

Charles Darwin, an evolutionary scientist, studied different animal and plant **species**, which allowed him to see how **adaptations** could come about. His work on the finches was some of his most famous.



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.



Natural Selection

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.

Variation

In the same way that there is **variation** between parents and their **offspring**, you can see **variation** within any species, even plants.



Adaptive Traits

Characteristics that are influenced by the **environment** the living things live in. These **adaptations** can develop as a result of many things, such as food and climate.



Inherited Traits

Eye colour is an example of an **inherited trait**, but so are things like hair colour, the shape of your earlobes and whether or not you can smell certain flowers.