



Year 6 - Evolution and Inheritance - Half Term 3

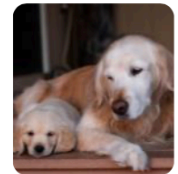
Fossils

Mary Anning was a palaeontologist who found and collected many fossils along the Jurassic Coast in Dorset. She was the first person to uncover a full ichthyosaurus skeleton.



Characteristics and Variation

A characteristic describes how something looks or how it behaves. **Characteristics** can be passed on from parents to their offspring, meaning that they can be **inherited**. They can include hair colour, eye colour and height. However, **environmental** factors are important too.



Charles Darwin, the Galapagos Islands and Human Evolution

Charles Darwin was a famous naturalist who studied finches and tortoises on the Galapagos Islands. He suggested that some species may share a common ancestor and evolve to suit their habitats. He called this process natural selection.

Australopithecus

Homo habilis

Homo erectus

**Homo heidelbergensis/
neanderthalensis**

Homo sapiens

3.6 million years ago

Human Evolution

Today



Adaptations

Plants and animals have numerous **adaptations** which help them to survive in their **habitats**.

- Camels have humps to store food, two rows of eyelashes and small slits for nostrils
- Epiphytes are plants which can grow on the surface of another plant
- Some plants contain toxic minerals to protect themselves from predators
- Other plants can store water, trap insects and smother other plants



Key Vocabulary

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
epiphytes	plants that grow on the surface of other plants
fossil	the remains or impression of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock
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
Charles Darwin	an English naturalist, best known for his theory of evolution
evolved	how living things gradually change over time
natural selection	survival and reproduction of the fittest
ancestor	a person/living thing an organism is descended from
Homo sapiens	the scientific name for the human species

To know statements



I know how offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.

I know about animal adaptations.

I know about plant adaptations.

I know what we can learn from fossils.

I know about the theory of evolution.

I know about human evolution.

What can you remember from previous units?

Do you remember how adaptations and classifications occur within species?

Do you remember how fossils are formed?

Do you know how offspring can look different from their parents?

Anything else you have learnt? What have you enjoyed?

