

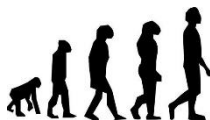


Evolution and Inheritance

Science
Year 6
Summer Term

Overview

During this topic, we will be exploring how living things have changed over time. We will also be identifying how offspring are not identical copies of their parents but have variation. We will be investigating how different plants and animals have adapted to their environment.



Knowledge & Understanding

In this unit, the pupils will:

- recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago
- recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents
- identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.

Enquiry Skills & Concepts

In this unit, the pupils will be:

- planning different types of scientific enquiries to answer questions, including recognising and controlling variables where necessary
- taking measurements with increasing accuracy and precision, taking repeat readings when appropriate
- recording data and results of increasing complexity using scientific diagrams and labels, classification keys, tables, scatter graphs, bar and line graphs
- using test results to make predictions to set up further comparative and fair tests
- reporting and presenting findings from enquiries, including conclusions.
- identifying scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas or arguments.

Home – School link project

During this topic pupils can choose to:

- Create your own fossil using clay or plasticine
- Write about how an animal has adapted over time to suit its environment.

Topic Vocabulary

adaptation – *how living things are specialised to suit their environment*

characteristics - *distinguishing trait, quality or property of a living thing*

environment – *the immediate surroundings of a living things*

evolution – *the process by which living things can gradually change over time*

inheritance – *the process of passing on features from parents to off spring*

fossils – *the remains or traces of plants and animals that lived long ago*

species – *a group of living things that are similar and can reproduce with each other*

variation – *the differences between living things of the same species*

Working Scientifically

analyse – *explore why something happened the way it did*

comparative test – *a test that compare one event to another and identify different outcomes*

controlled variable – *a variable that is kept the same in an experiment*

dependent variable – *a variable being tested or measure in an experiment*

evaluation – *examining how your test could be improved / changed in the future*

fair test– *a test that controls all but one variable when attempting to answer a scientific question*

independent variable – *a variable that is changed in an experiment*