

Prior Learning to Reactive

This is the first time this subject is taught within the Primary Curriculum

*Links from previous years:

- Changes from birth to old age (Year 5)
- Fossils are made when something that was living is trapped in rock (Year 3)
- Animals have offspring (Year 2)
- Plants need water, light and suitable temperature to grow (Year 2)
- Requirements for growth (Year 3)

Scientific Skills

Plan scientific and carry out fair tests

Repeat investigations to improve reliability

Study of local animals and how they have adapted to their environment

Compare how living things are adapted to survive in extreme conditions (cactuses, camels)

Analyse the advantages and disadvantages of specific adaptations, e.g. having a long or short beak, being on two feet rather than four.

Record data and results (including averages) using charts, tables, diagrams and keys

Report and present findings, drawing conclusions about results

Identify scientific evidence which has been used to support or refute ideas

Key vocabulary

Adapt

Make something more suitable for a use or purpose.

Adaptation

How living things have changed to survive in their environment.

Evolution

How living organisms are believed to have developed from earlier forms on Earth.

Inherit

To gain a characteristic from your ancestors.

Natural Selection

The process by which organisms which are better suited to their environment, tend to survive and produce more offspring.

Offspring

An animal's young or a human's child / children.

Reproduction

The process by which a living organism creates a likeness of itself.

Theory

A system of ideas intended to explain something.

Key learning

Living things have changed over time.

Evidence of evolution comes from fossils. When these are compared to living creatures from today, palaeontologists can identify similarities and differences.

Other evidence comes from living things—comparisons of some species may reveal common ancestors.

Living things produce offspring of the same kind but which are not normally identical to their parents.

Characteristics are passed from parents to their offspring.

Charles Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection is the foundation upon which modern evolutionary theory is built.

Animals and plants adapt to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution through natural selection.

Variation in offspring over time can make animals more or less able to survive in particular environments (giraffe's neck)

Sometimes adaptations can be disadvantageous. One example of this is the dodo, which through evolution lost its ability to fly and therefore became extinct. Flying had been unnecessary as it had lived for so many years without predators, until its native island became inhabited.

