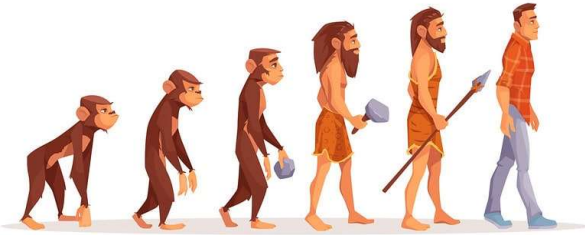
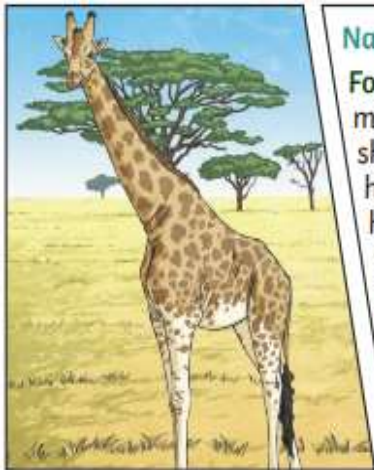


Evolution



The gradual process by which different kinds of living organisms have developed from earlier forms over millions of years. Scientists have proof that living things are continuously evolving – even today!



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.

Key Vocabulary

inheritance	A feature which passes from parents to offspring
variation	A change or difference within the same species.
adaptation	The process of change by which an organism or species becomes better suited to its environment.
evolution	The process by which different kinds of organisms are believed to have developed from earlier forms.
natural selection	The process whereby organisms better adapted to the environment tend to survive and produce offspring
fossils	The remains or impression of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock and preserved.
DNA	A material that is present in living organisms and carries genetic information.
genes	A unit which is transferred from a parent to offspring and is held to determine some characteristic of the offspring.








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.

Living Things	Habitat	Adaptive Traits
polar bear 	arctic 	Its white fur enables it to camouflage in the snow.
camel 	desert 	It has wide feet to make it easier to walk in the sand.
cactus 	desert 	It stores water in its stem.
toucan 	rainforest 	Its narrow tongue allows it to eat small fruit and insects.

Evolution

