

# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School



**Subject: Science**

Topic: Evolution and Inheritance

Year: 6

Strand: biology

## What should I already know?

This unit builds on the children's learning from the Year 3 Rocks unit as well as the Animals including Humans and Living Things and their Habitats units. As such, it is important that children have the appropriate understanding of fossils, habitats and human development in order to grasp the concepts and ideas presented to them in these lessons.

## What am I going to learn?

	<p><b>Offspring</b> Animals and plants produce <b>offspring</b> that are similar but not identical to them. <b>Offspring</b> often look like their parents because features are passed on.</p>	<p><b>Variation</b> In the same way that there is <b>variation</b> between parents and their <b>offspring</b>, you can see <b>variation</b> within any species, even plants.</p>	
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<p><b>Adaptive Traits</b> <b>Characteristics</b> that are influenced by the <b>environment</b> the living things live in. These <b>adaptations</b> can develop as a result of many things, such as food and climate.</p>			<p><b>Inherited Traits</b> Eye colour is an example of an <b>inherited trait</b>, but so are things like hair colour, the shape of your earlobes and whether or not you can smell certain flowers.</p>
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	<p><b>Habitats</b> A good <b>habitat</b> should provide shelter, water, enough space and plenty of food.</p>	<p><b>Environments</b> There are many types of <b>environment</b> around the world. Polar regions, deserts, rainforests, oceans, rivers, and grasslands are all <b>environments</b>.</p>	
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**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.

**Evolution** is the gradual process by which different kinds of living organism have developed from earlier forms over millions of years. Scientists have proof that living things are continuously **evolving** - even today!



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.

**Offspring:** the young animal or plant that is produced by the reproduction of that species.

**Inheritance:** this is when characteristics are passed on to offspring from their parents.

**Variations:** the differences between individuals within a species.

**Characteristics:** the distinguishing features or qualities that are specific to a species.

**Adaptation:** an adaptation is a trait (or characteristics) changing to increase a living thing's chances of surviving and reproducing.

**Habitat:** refers to a specific area of place in which particular animals and plants can live.

**Environment:** an environment contains many habitats and include areas where there are both living and non-living things.

**Evolutions:** adaptations over a very long time.

**Natural selection:** the process where organisms that are better adapted to their environment tend to survive and produce more offspring.

**Fossils:** the remains or imprint of a prehistoric plant or animal, embedded in rock and preserved. Adaptive traits: genetic features that help a living thing to survive.

**Inherited traits:** these are traits you get from your parents. Within a family, you will often see similar traits, e.g. curly hair.

## Websites

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/our-science/collections/palaeontology-collections.html>

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/home-of-charles-darwin-down-house/things-to-do/>