

Science - Darwin's Dilemma

Key Vocabulary

Inheritance	Inheritance is genetic information being passed from parent to child.
Genes	Genes carry information (DNA) which tells our bodies what characteristics a person should have. E.g. eye colour, hair colour.
Evolution	Evolution is the way something gradually changes over time.
Adaptation	Adaptation is a special skill which helps an animal survive in its own habitat.

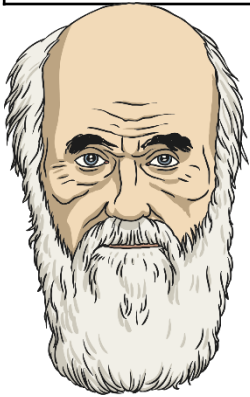
Inheritance

In science, inheritance refers to the genes that are passed on from parents to offspring. When we refer to inherited characteristics we tend to focus on physical characteristics, which are easy to spot. Inherited characteristics also include abilities such as taste and smell.



Genes

What characteristics have you inherited from your parents?

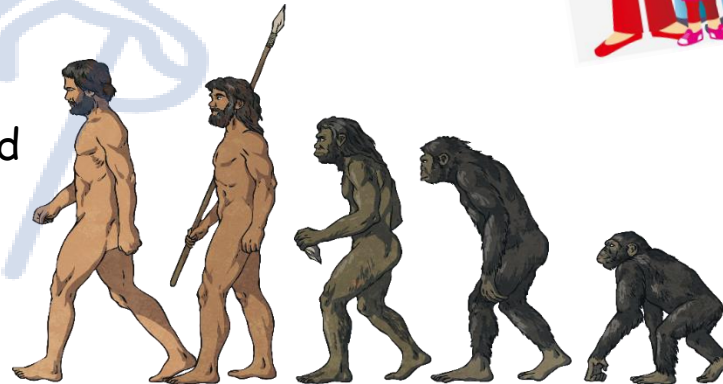


The Theory of Evolution

Charles Darwin (1809-1882) introduced the theory of evolution. He was a famous English naturalist (an expert in studying nature), biologist (an expert in living things) and geologist (an expert in rocks and fossils).

He discovered that humans and apes shared **ancestors** which led to this famous image...

Can you find out more about the image and explain Darwin's thoughts?



Can you research into Darwin's life, work and theories?

Science - Darwin's Dilemma

How has the camel adapted to its environment?

What is adaptation?

Adaptation is the process of change where a species becomes better suited to the environment.

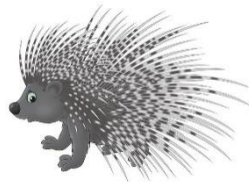
For example, the polar bear does not hibernate in winter like the grizzly bear does. Polar bears have features that help them adapt to the cold.

- They have thick fur coats.
- They have a layer of fat under their fur.
- They have hair on their paws that helps them avoid slipping on the ice.



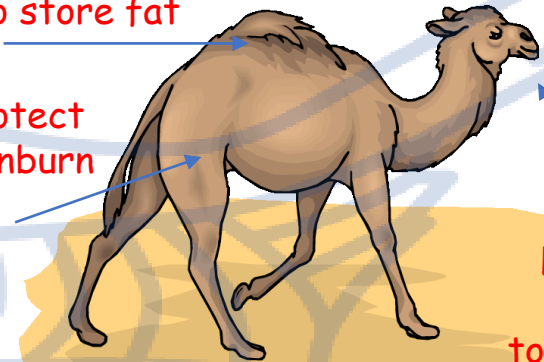
Can you think of other animals that have adaptive features?

- Arctic Hare
- Walrus
- Snowy Owl
- Porcupine



Hump to store fat

Fur to protect against sunburn



Leathery mouth to eat prickly desert plants

How are a camel's feet adapted to walk on a desert?
How does it protect itself from the blowing sand?

Did you know that fossils provide evidence of how animals lived many years ago? It proves how they evolved over time.

