Why do we need to adapt and change?



Fossils provide us with evidence: they tell us about an animal's habitat, diet and appearance.



Plants (and animals) have **characteristics** that make them suited to their environment. If the environment changes, species that are better suited survive to **reproduce** and pass these characteristics onto their young. Over time, these characteristics become **dominant**.



All living things have **offspring** of the same kind. Offspring are not identical to their parents and vary from each other. We get 50% of our **genes** from one parent and 50% of our genes from the other.



The theory of **evolution** is the process by which organisms change over time as a result of changes in **heritable** traits.

Glossary

characteristics - a special quality or trait that makes a person, thing or group different from others.

dominant – more important or noticeable than others.

evolution- the process by which different organisms are believed to have developed from earlier forms

fossils- a remnant of an organism that existed in a past age

genes – the basic physical unit of heredity.

heritable- capable of being inherited

Inheritance – when characteristics are passed onto offspring

offspring – the product of the reproductive process of a person, animal or plant.

reproduce – to produce again by natural process.

Key scientist: Charles Darwin

