



Evolution and Inheritance Year 6

What I need to know

- Living things have offspring of the same kind, and features in the offspring are inherited from parents.
- Offspring are not identical to their parents and vary from each other. New features to the offspring are called mutations.
- Plants and animals have characteristics that make them suited (adapted) to the environment.
- If the environment changes rapidly, some variations of species may not be suited to the environment and die.
- Fossils give us evidence of what lived on Earth millions of years ago and provide evidence to support the theory of evolution.

Evolution

Where environments change slowly, animals and plants with variations that are best suited to that environment survive in greater numbers (known as natural selection).



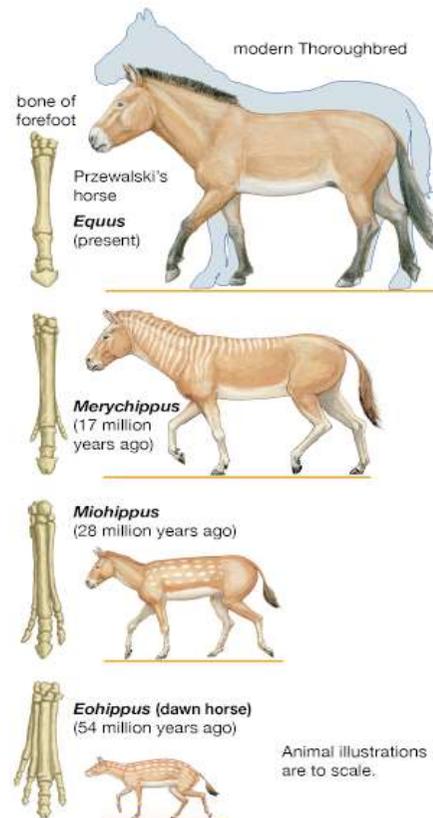
These animals and plants reproduce and pass their characteristics to their offspring



Over time, these characteristics become more dominant within the population.



Over a very long time, these characteristics may be so different to how they were originally that a new species is formed.



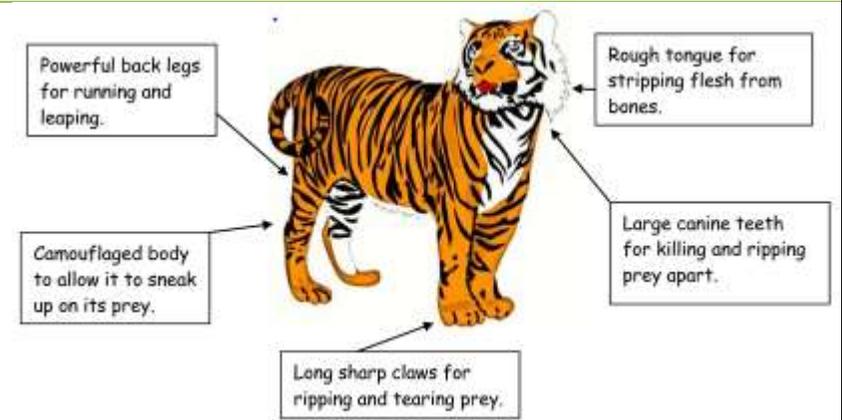


Evolution and Inheritance Year 6

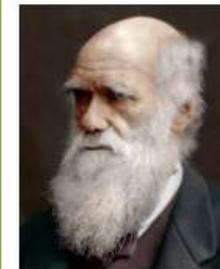
Key Vocabulary

Adaptation	The process by which animals and plants change so that they better suit their environment.
Advantageous	Favourable circumstances that increase the chances of success.
Ancestor	An early type of animal or plant from which others have evolved.
Descendent	A person, plant or animal which has descended from an ancestor.
Inheritance	The process in which living things reproduce and pass on characteristics to their offspring.
Evolution	The process by which different kinds of living things have developed or changed from earlier forms.
Evolve	To change or develop gradually over time.
Population	A group of species living in a particular place.
Reproduce	To produce offspring.
Variation	When similar things, such as members of a population, vary or have different characteristics from each other.

This tiger has been adapted perfectly to hunting and being able to kill its prey in its home environment.



Fossils are imprints of long dead animals and plants. They help to tell us how animals used to look.



Charles Darwin (1809-1882) first proposed the theory of evolution through natural selection.