



Y6 Thinking like a Scientist

Key Knowledge:

Characteristics and Variation:

A characteristic describes how something looks or how it behaves. Characteristics can be passed on from parents to their offspring, meaning that they can be inherited. They can include hair colour, eye colour and height. However, environmental factors are important too.



Adaptations:

Plants and animals have numerous adaptations which help them to survive in their habitats.



- Camels have humps to store food, two rows of eyelashes and small slits for nostrils
- Epiphytes are plants which can grow on the surface of another plant
- Some plants contain toxic minerals to protect themselves from predators
- Other plants can store water, trap insects and smother other plants

Charles Darwin, the Galapagos Islands and Human Evolution:

Charles Darwin was a famous naturalist who studied finches and tortoises on the Galapagos Islands. He suggested that some species may share a common ancestor and evolve to suit their habitats. He called this process natural selection.



Fossils:

Mary Anning was a palaeontologist who found and collected many fossils along the Jurassic Coast in Dorset. She was the first person to uncover a full ichthyosaurus skeleton.



Inherit	When features are passed on from parents
Adaptation	Changes or special features of a living thing
Fossil	The remains or impression of a prehistoric
Palaeontologist	A scientist that studies remains of plants
Evolved	How living things gradually change over
Natural selection	Survival and reproduction of the fittest
Ancestor	A person/living thing an organism is de-
Homo sapiens	The scientific name for the human species

Learning Questions

Why do offspring vary?

What is animal adaptation?

What is plant adaptation?

What can we learn from fossils?

What is the theory of evolution by natural selection?

Can we explore human evolution?