

Key Vocabulary

adaptation	The act of adapting or changing due to the environment.
evolution	A gradual change that takes place over a long period of time.
inherit	Obtain a quality or characteristic from one's parents or ancestors.
variation	The difference in the characteristics of living things.
characteristics	The features of a living thing.
inhabit	To exist in an environment.

Key Facts

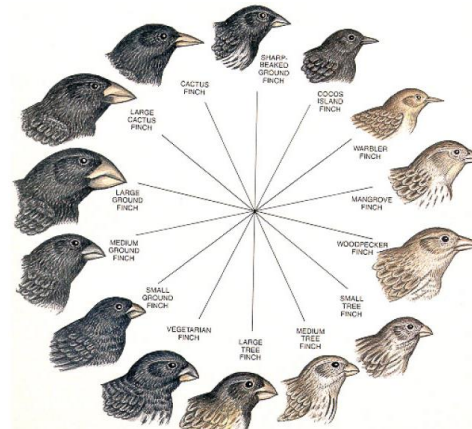
- Charles Darwin believed that animals evolve over time and adapt to their environment.
- Adaption leads to evolution over a long period of time as adaption is made for survival. Through inheritance, these adaptations can be passed on and become permanent within a species.
- Fossils show animals and plants have changed over time due to adaption and evolution. For example, fossils show giraffes used to have much shorter necks but adapted to meet their environment.
- Inheritance passing on qualities from a parent to an offspring, this could be things like eye colour and hair colour.

Key Questions

- What was Darwin's Theory of Evolution?
- What is inheritance?
- What do fossils tell us about plants and animals that used to inhabit the earth?
- Why are offspring not identical to their parents?
- How does adaptation lead to evolution?
- What is the impact of human intervention on evolution?

Links to other Learning

- Year 3 - Rocks and Fossils
To know how fossils are formed
- Year 4 - Living things and their habitats
Recognise that environments can change and pose a danger to living things
- Year 5 - Animals including Humans
Describe the changes as humans develop to old age
- Key Stage 3 - Biology
Genetics and evolution



Darwin studied adaption and evolution using finches found in the Galapagos. Each finch was unique to the island it was found on.

Famous Scientist

Mary Leakey
1913-1996

Mary Leakey was an English paleontologist who made several important fossil discoveries contributing to greater understanding of human evolution. One of her discoveries proved that humans started walking upright much earlier than the scientific community previously thought.

