

Evolution and Inheritance: Lesson 1

Introduction

Science KS2 Year 6



Evolution and Inheritance: Lesson 1

Science

**Key Stage 2
Year 6**

Learning Aim:

- how animals adapt to their environment, learning about natural selection and how this leads to evolution

Curriculum Objective:

- recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago

Key Vocabulary

Evolution. Inheritance. Inherited. Adaptation. Offspring. Vary. Characteristics. Suited. Environment. Species. Fossils. Natural selection.

These can also be found at the end of this PDF and can be placed on a learning wall as they are discussed during the lesson.

Evolution

Offspring

Suited



PowerPoint Presentation

The accompanying PowerPoint presentation has 33 slides with the following learning points. At intervals throughout the lesson, we suggest asking the children what questions they might have. These can be collected throughout the unit of learning and added to the slide at the end of the lesson.

- Slides 1 and 2 introduce the lesson.
- Slide 3 creates a mind map to help discuss what the children know about evolution and inheritance.
- Slide 4 introduces evolution. This will be explored in greater depth throughout the rest of this series.
- Slide 5 introduces inheritance. This will be explored in greater depth in Lesson 4: Variation and Inheritance.
- Slides 6 and 7 ask the children to think of an extinct animal, and then explain why dinosaurs may have died out.
- Slides 8 and 9 look at two iconic animals who died out at the end of the last Ice Age: the woolly mammoth and the sabre-toothed tiger.
- Slides 10, 11 and 12 look at the dodo and the Tasmanian tiger, animals who have become extinct more recently due to human activity.
- Slides 13 and 14 explain that if the environment changes rapidly, some species may die out. If the environment changes slowly, animals and plants with variations that are best adapted to their environment survive and reproduce. This is natural selection. Slide 14 also refers to DNA, the topic of the next two lessons.
- Slides 15 to 21 look at how natural selection led to the evolution of the polar bear during the last Ice Age.
- Slides 22 and 23 introduce Charles Darwin and 'Darwin's finches'. The children will learn about these in greater detail in lesson 7, 'Natural Selection'.
- Slides 24 to 27 look at other animals who have evolved with particular characteristics: peppered moth, giraffe, mole and flatfish.
- Slides 28 and 29 explain that plants also adapt to their environment, and features the cactus and the water lily. This will be explored in greater depth in Lesson 8, 'Adaptation'.

Activity

- Slide 30 asks the children to research an animal or plant which has evolved over time. They then present findings and they give each other feedback on their presentations.
- Slide 31 provides useful links for the presentation.
- Slide 32 is kept blank so that you can add the children's questions, and carry them through this unit of learning.
- Slide 33 is the closing slide.



Evolution and Inheritance: Keywords Flashcards



Evolution

Inheritance

Inherited

Adaptation

Offspring

Vary



Evolution and Inheritance: Keywords Flashcards



Characteristics

Suited

Environment

Species

Fossils

**Natural
selection**



Evolution



Inheritance



Inherited



Adaptation



Offspring



Vary



Characteristics



Suited



Environment



Species



Fossils



Natural selection



Natural selection

