

SCIENCE: EVOLUTION AND INHERITANCE



What I might already know: Fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock.



How have living things changed over time?

When does evolution occur?

What we will be learning:

Over time the **characteristics** that are most suited to the environment become increasingly common. Animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment. **Adaptation** may lead to **evolution**.



Living things have changed over time and **fossils** provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.



How are offspring similar to their parents and how may they differ?

Why are fossils important? What do they tell us?

Key knowledge:

- ✓ **Variation** exists within a population (and between offspring of some plants)
- ✓ **Organisms** best suited to their **environment** are more likely to survive long enough to reproduce.
- ✓ Organisms that are best adapted to **reproduce** are more likely to do so.
- ✓ Organisms reproduce and **offspring** have similar **characteristic** patterns.



Key Vocabulary

Evolution 	The process by which living things are believed to have developed from earlier forms during the history of the earth.	Offspring 	Children or an animal's young.
Natural selection 	The process whereby organisms better adapted/suited to their environment tend to survive and produce more offspring.	Genetic 	Related to or belonging to genes; characteristics that are inherited from genetic parents.
Variation 	Differences between individuals in a species.	Environmental 	All the physical surroundings on earth; characteristics that are caused by surroundings.
Advantageous 	A benefit; something that is better than most.	Characteristics 	A feature or quality belonging to a living thing.