

# Science—Year 6—Evolution and Inheritance

## Key Knowledge

- A fossil is the remains of plants and animals such as skeletons, shells and teeth. A fossil can also be an imprint from a plant or animal which is then filled with sediment to create a 3D model.
- 50 million years ago the horse was the size of a dog, had several toes on each foot and had different teeth.
- Evolution is when a species changes because the organism passes down traits over many generations. These traits help them live longer.
- The elephant has evolved from the mammoth which lived 300,000 years ago. It was larger, had longer tusks, a thick coat of fur and smaller ears. Elephants now live in warmer climates and do not need fur to keep them warm or large tusks to move snow to reach food.
- The giraffe's early ancestors had short necks and looked similar to a moose. Its long neck has evolved over time to help it reach food and to help it protect itself.
- Inheritance is when a living thing reproduces and passes on genetic information to its offspring.
- Off spring will share characteristics of both parents.
- Adaptations are any physical or behavioural characteristics of a living thing that help it to survive in its environment
- Camels have adapted to live in the desert. They have long, shaggy fur that keeps them warm but which they can shed during hot months. Their wide hooves keep them from sinking in sand. The energy-rich fat stored in their humps enables them to survive long periods without food.
- Polar bears have adapted to live in the arctic. They have webbed feet to help them swim, a layer of fat to keep them warm, black skin to absorb the sun's heat, white appearance as camouflage from prey on the snow and ice, a greasy coat that sheds water after swimming to help reduce heat loss and large feet stop them sinking in snow and to grip onto ice

## Vocabulary



evolution	vary/variation
suited/suitable	inherit/inheritance
environment	fossils
suited	
adapted/adaptation	
offspring	
characteristics	



## Key People

**David Attenborough (1926—)** is an English broadcaster, biologist, natural historian and author.

**Charles Darwin (1809—1882)**

Biologist who contributed to the theory of evolution

