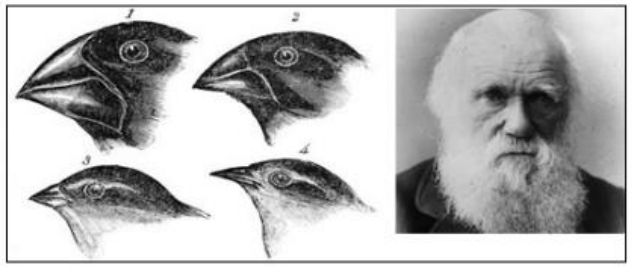
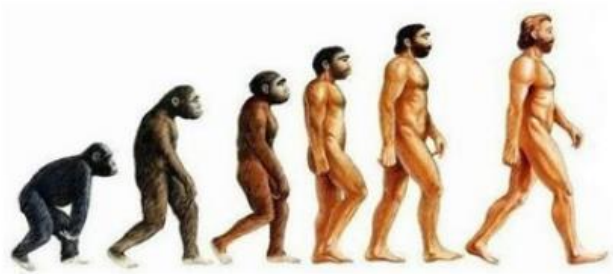
	Key Vocabulary
Evolution	A change over a long period of time
Fossil	The preserved remains of an organism (plant or animal)
Adaption	The process of changing to suit a particular environment
Anthropologist	A scientist who studies the origins of mankind (Charles Darwin)
Variation	The difference between living things within a species e.g. hair colour
Inheritance	Passing on characteristics from parent to offspring
Natural Selection	When the most beneficial characteristics get passed onto later generations
Species	Organisms with similar characteristics
Extinct	A species that no longer exists in nature
Theory	A thought-out explanation based on observations
Offspring	The young animal or plant that is produced by the reproduction of that species.
Characteristic	The distinguishing features or qualities that are specific to a species.
Environment	An environment contains many habitats and includes areas where there are both living and non-living things.
Habitat	Refers to a specific area or place in which particular animals and plants can live.

Term 2
Science
Evolution and Inheritance

Charles Darwin, an evolutionary scientist, studied different animal and plant species, which allowed him to see how adaptations could come about. His work on the finches was some of his most famous.





Living Things		Habitat		Adaptive Traits
polar bear		arctic		Its white fur enables it to camouflage in the snow.
camel		desert		It has wide feet to make it easier to walk in the sand.
cactus		desert		It stores water in its stem.
toucan		rainforest		Its narrow tongue allows it to eat small fruit and insects.

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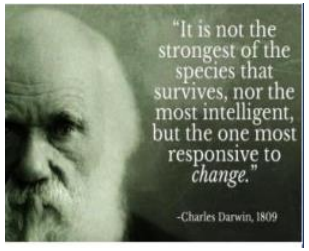

Thinking deeper

How do you think animals and humans will need to evolve and adapt to survive life on Earth in the future? Why do you think this?

Natural Selection

Natural selection is the term coined by Darwin, used to describe how animal species continue and survive. It is when organisms are best suited to their environment survive and pass on their generic traits. This is a mixture of genetics, characteristics and adaptation that has spanned over millions of years. At the same time, organisms that are less likely to survive tend to be eliminated from the ecosystem. The fittest, most adapted organisms survive and multiply whilst the least adapted die out.

Adaptation

Adaptations are any physical or behavioural characteristics of an animal that help it to survive in its environment. Living things are adapted to their habitats. This means that they have special features that help them to survive. It's not just animals that are adapted to their environment, plants are too. A cactus is well adapted for survival in the desert. They have long roots to collect water from a large area and a stem that can store water for a long period of time. The animals and plants in one habitat are suited to live there and may not be able to survive in other habitats. When a habitat changes, the animals and plants that live there are affected

What is a fossil?

A fossil is the preserved remains of an organism, either animal or plant, that has been in the earth for millions of years. The organism dies and gets buried under multiple layers of rock and silt – as the flesh degrades the bones remain and a fossil is left behind.