Year Six Evolution and Inheritance

Spring 1

Mary made some incredible discoveries in her life including a long-necked marine reptile called a plesiosaur.

MARY ANNING

was a pioneering palaeontologist and fossil collector.

FOSSILS

can provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.

This is an

ammonite

Glossary

Adaptation - the process of change so that an organism or species can become better suited to their environment

Ammonite - the fossil of an extinct marine creature with flat, spiral shells

Evolution - the process by which different kinds of living organism are believed to have developed from earlier forms during the history of the earth

Fossil - the remains or impression of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock and preserved

Inherit- to gain a quality, characteristic or predisposition genetically from a parent or ancestor

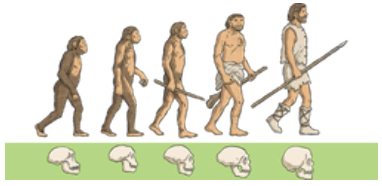
Offspring - a person's child or children/an animal's young

Palaeontologist - a scientist who studies fossils

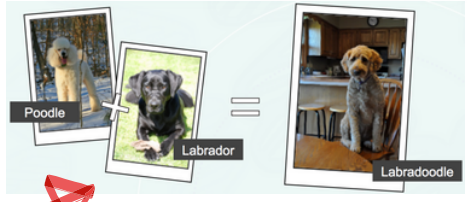
Variation -the differences in characteristics between individuals of the same species

CHARLES DARWIN

published his scientific theory of ***natural selection*** in a book called 'On the Origin of Species'. Darwin's theory explained how every living thing is connected in a family tree that stretches back billions of years to the beginning of life on Earth.



Living things produce offspring of the same kind but normally offspring will vary and are not identical to their parents.



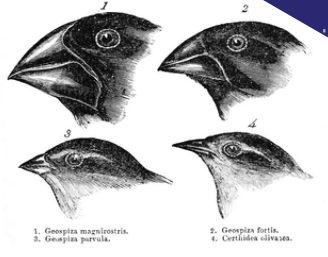
ADAPTATION

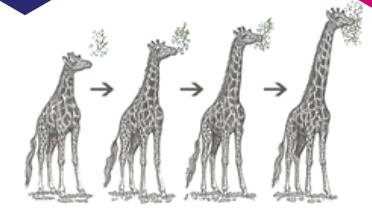
can lead to **EVOLUTION.**

Evolution is the changes in a species over a looooooooong time.

Living things are **ADAPTED** to suit their environments in different ways; they have special features to **SURVIVE**

Polar bears live in **COLD** habitats so they have **THICK FUR** to keep warm.





Darwin's theory of evolution through natural selection would suggest that the finches on the Galapagos Islands had different shaped beaks because the food available on each island varied and the finches' beak shape evolved to take advantage of the food supply.

Giraffes' necks grew longer over time because, through natural selection, the giraffes with the longer necks could reach more leaves at the tops of trees.

Living things have adaptive traits (influenced by their environment) and inherited traits (gained from parents/ancestors).

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.