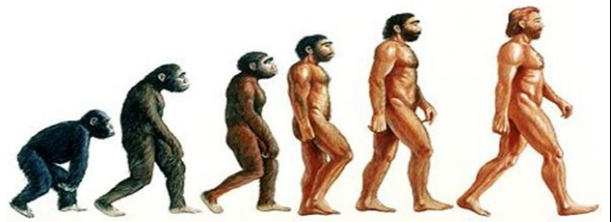


Year 6: Evolution and Inheritance

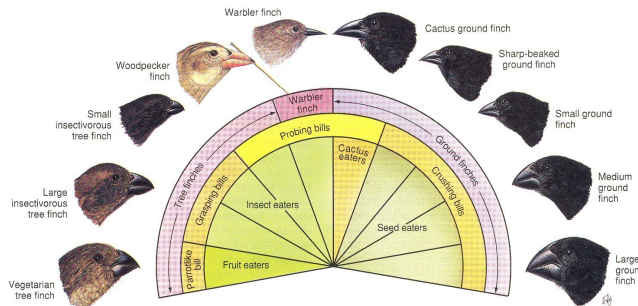
Key Learning

Charles Darwin's theory of evolution

The theory of evolution by natural selection is the process by which organisms change over a long period of time as a result of changes in response to the environment.



Living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents. In the same way that there is variation between parents and their offspring, there is variation within any species, even plants.



Animals change over time and adapt to the surroundings in which they live. Darwin observed that there were many different forms of finch that had different beak sizes and shape. Once he considered the food source for each finch, he noted the reason for these adaptations.

Variation in dog species



Variation in Hosta plant species



Mary Anning

A British palaeontologist and fossil collector. She is known for her discovery of the first complete Plesiosaurus



A fossil is the remains or impression of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in a rock and preserved.

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



Key Vocabulary

characteristics	The distinguishing features or qualities that are specific to a species.
inheritance	This is when characteristics are passed on to offspring from their parents.
adaptation	An adaptation is a trait (characteristic) changing to increase a living thing's chances of surviving and reproducing.
evolution	Adaptations that take place in a species over a long period of time in response to the environment.
natural selection	The process where organisms that are better adapted to their environment tend to survive and produce more offspring.
fossil	The remains of imprint of a prehistoric plant or animal, embedded in rock and preserved.
adaptive traits	Genetic features that help a living thing survive.
inherited traits	These are traits you get from your parents. Within a family, you will often see similar traits. E.g. curly hair, shape of features.
extinction	When an animal or plant species dies out and there are no more left.