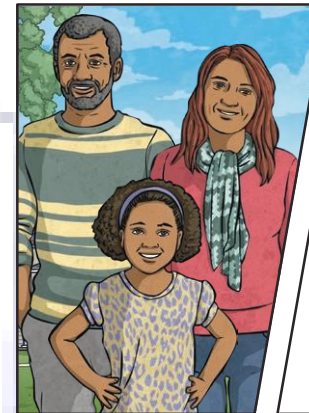


## Key Vocabulary

<b>offspring</b>	The young animal or plant that is produced by the reproduction of that species.
<b>inheritance</b>	This is when <b>characteristics</b> are passed on to <b>offspring</b> from their parents.
<b>variations</b>	The differences between individuals within a species.
<b>characteristics</b>	The distinguishing features or qualities that are specific to a species.
<b>adaptation</b>	An <b>adaptation</b> is a trait (or <b>characteristic</b> ) changing to increase a living thing's chances of surviving and reproducing.
<b>habitat</b>	Refers to a specific area or place in which particular animals and plants can live.
<b>environment</b>	An <b>environment</b> contains many <b>habitats</b> and includes areas where there are both living and non- living things.

### Variation

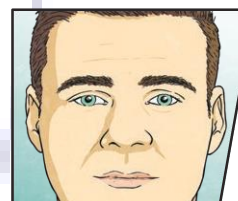
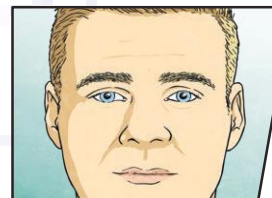
In the same way that there is variation between parents and their offspring, you can see variation within any species, even plants.



### Offspring

Animals and plants produce offspring that are similar but not identical to them. Offspring often look like their parents because features are passed on.

**Adaptive Traits**  
Characteristics that are influenced by the environment the living things live in. These adaptations can develop as a result of many things, such as food and climate.



**Inherited Traits** Eye colour is an example of an **inherited trait**, but so are things like hair colour, the shape of your earlobes and whether or not you can smell certain flowers.

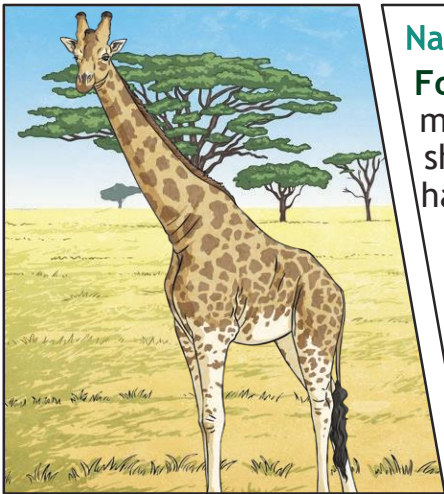
### Habitats

A good habitat should provide shelter, water, enough space and plenty of food.

### Environments

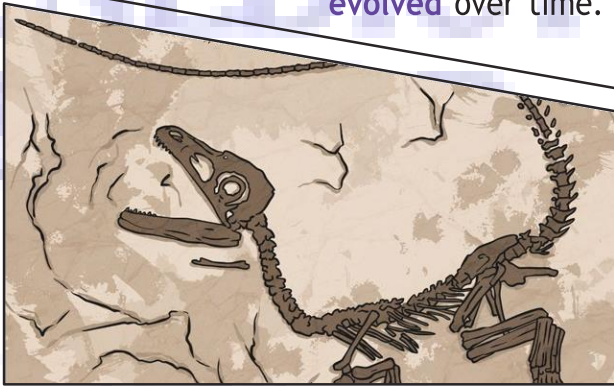
There are many types of environments around the world. Polar regions, deserts, rainforests, oceans, rivers and grasslands are all environments.

Key Vocabulary	
evolution	Adaptation over a very long time.
natural selection	The process where organisms that are better adapted to their <b>environment</b> tend to survive and produce more <b>offspring</b> .
fossil	The remains or imprint of a prehistoric plant or animal, embedded in rock and preserved.
adaptive traits	Genetic features that help a living thing to survive.
inherited traits	These are traits you get from your parents. Within a family, you will often see similar traits, e.g. curly hair.

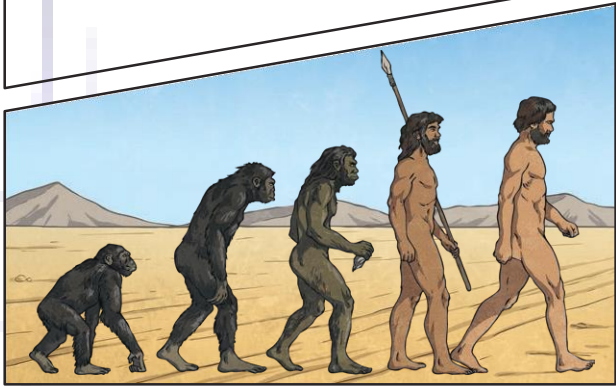










**Natural Selection**  
**Fossils** of giraffes from millions of years ago show that they used to have shorter necks. They have gradually **evolved** through **natural selection** to have longer necks so that they can reach the top leaves on taller trees.

**Fossils** are the preserved remains, or partial remains, of ancient animals and plants. **Fossils** let scientists know how plants and animals used to look millions of years ago. This is proof that living things have **evolved** over time.



**Evolution** is the gradual process by which different kinds of living organism have developed from earlier forms over millions of years. Scientists have proof that living things are continuously **evolving** - even today!



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.