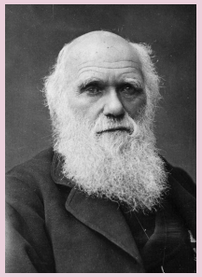
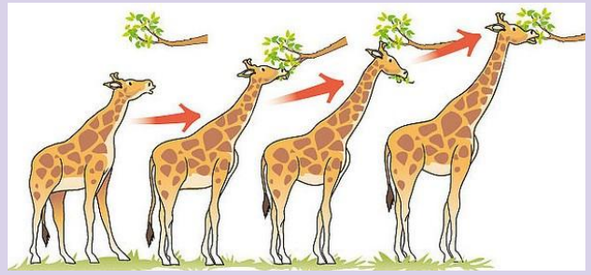
Year 6 Science: How have living things evolved over time?

Key Vocabulary

Offspring	The young animal or plant that is produced by the reproduction of that species.
Evolution	**Adaptation** over a very long time
Inheritance	**Characteristics** that are passed onto the **offspring** from their parents
Variation	Differences between individuals within a species
Adaptation	A trait (or characteristic) changing to increase a living thing's chances of surviving and reproducing
Natural selection	Process where organisms that are better adapted to their environment tend to survive
Fossil	Remains or imprint of a prehistoric organism embedded and preserved in rocks



Charles Darwin was an English scientist known for his **theory of evolution by natural selection.** He described his ideas in his important book, *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* (1859).

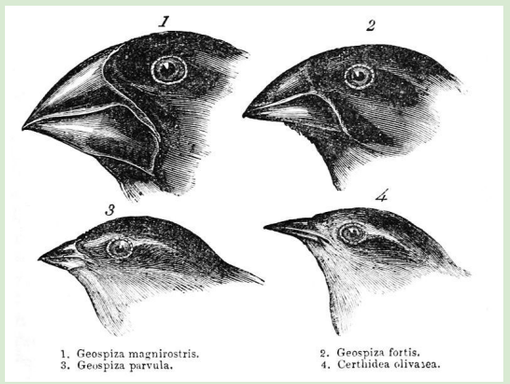


Fossil of giraffes showed that they used to have shorter necks. Through **natural selection**, giraffes evolved to have longer necks so that they could reach the top leaves on taller trees.

Fossils are preserved remains of ancient animals or plants. It allows scientist to learn about organisms that used to live millions of years ago.

There is variation between parent and offsprings. It can be seen within any species, even plants.

Inherited traits can be your eye colour, hair colour, the shape of your earlobes and whether or not you can smell certain flowers.



Adapted traits are characteristics that are influenced by the environment the living things live in. They develop as a result of food and climate.