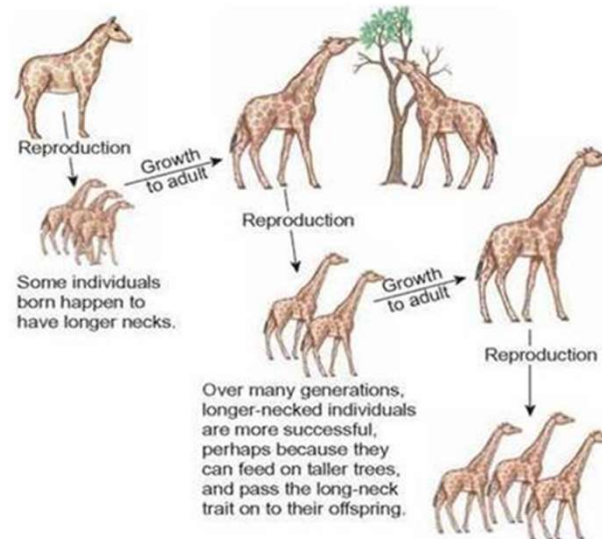
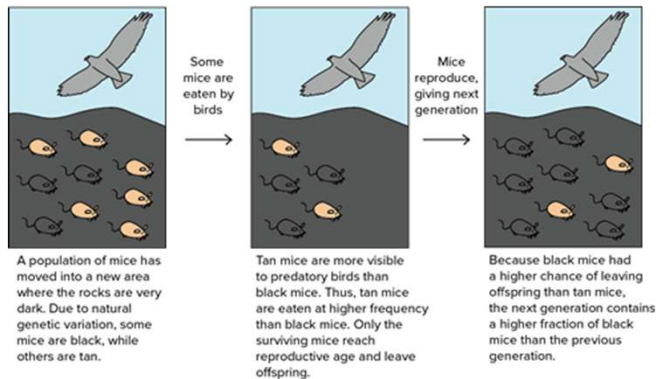


Evolution and Inheritance – Year 6 - Autumn Term

Key Knowledge

Evolution

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| What is evolution? | Evolution is the way that living things change over time. |
| Do things evolve? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We know that living things used to look a lot different to how they do now. We know this because fossils have been found that shows creatures that look a lot different to how they do today. Fossils show us that living things have changed over time. |
| So how do things evolve? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A famous scientist, Charles Darwin observed that although individuals in a species shared similarities, they were not exact copies of each other. He noticed that there were small differences or variations between them. He also noticed that everything in the natural world was in competition. The winners were those that had characteristics which made them better adapted for survival. For example, they were stronger, faster, cleverer or more attractive than others in their species. These living things were more likely to reproduce and pass on their useful characteristics to their offspring. Individuals that were poorly adapted were less likely to survive and their characteristics were not likely to be inherited. Over time, the characteristics that helped survival became more common and a species gradually changed. Give enough time, these small changes can add up to the extent that a new species altogether can evolve. |



Useful websites

<https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/resource/471567>

Key Vocabulary

Definition

Fossils	A fossil is the naturally preserved remains or traces of animals or plants that lived in the geologic past.
Variation	Small differences.
Reproduction	To produce again/ give birth.
Offspring	Children or young.
Migration	Seasonal movement of animals from one location to another.

Key Knowledge

Variation

What's the important thing to know?	Living things produce offspring of the same kind. For example, owls produce baby owls and humans produce baby humans... BUT... Normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.
So what?	- Natural variation like this can lead to offspring being more likely or less likely to survive in their environment. - If the variant makes them more likely to survive, they are more likely to be alive to pass this variant to their offspring. - As a result, this variant is more likely to become more common in this species.

Adaption

What is adaption?	Adaption is when things evolve to overcome challenges in their environment, For example by adapting their behaviour.
Examples of adaption	Migration - Birds have adapted to move around the world to find weather and food sources to suit them. - Birds that didn't do this may have run out of food and died. Sticking together in packs - Animals that learned to live in packs were more likely to be safer and more successful when hunting, leading them to be more likely to survive.