

Year 6 Term 1

What is the difference between living and surviving?

SCIENCE – Evolution and Inheritance



Recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.

Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.

Identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.

Long-term Memory Knowledge:

Name some of the things scientists can learn about living things from the past from the fossils that are left behind. Offspring are similar to their parents but not identical as they inherit traits and characteristics from both.

Name some of the ways a plant or animal is suited to its environment.

Recognise that plants and animals best suited to their environments are more likely to survive and produce offspring.

A species can evolve as a result.

Key Vocabulary

diversity	differences between species
variation	differences within species
traits	a feature of a living thing
evolution	the way living things—like plants and animals—gradually change over many years
inherited variation	a characteristic that is a result of genetic inheritance – something you get from your parents, e.g. eye colour
environmental variation	the environment inhabited causes differences in characteristics, e.g. the language you speak
selective breeding	when organisms are deliberately bred so their offspring have particular characteristics
natural selection	the process by which living things with traits better suited to their

environment are more likely to survive and reproduce, passing those beneficial traits on to their offspring

Progression in Resources:

- Fossils
- Family photographs
- Images of animals and their habitats
- Data loggers
- Plants with roots
- Microscopes

Relevance

Now	Children develop an understanding of why some living things no longer exist and why others have changed and developed over time; they continue to develop their understanding of how science helps us to understand the world.
Future	They can use their knowledge of inherited and environmental characteristics and adaptation to choose suitable pets and/or landscape their garden/window boxes.
Aspiration	They may consider a career in genetics, possibly looking into cures for genetic illnesses – either in plants or animals.

National Curriculum Links:

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Essential Prior Learning:

Have a basic understanding of what a fossil is and how they are formed.

We can use fossils to learn about living things from the past.

Animals have babies that look similar to them (or grow up to do so).

Plants grow from seeds to look like the plant the seed came from.

Animals and plants are adapted to suit the environment they live in.

Progression in Skill:

Make systematic careful observations.

Choose and use the most appropriate equipment (magnifying lens).

Suggest further investigations.