



Topic	Evolution and Inheritance	Year/s	5/6	Term	Summer
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### What I should know already

Living things and their habitats  
I can recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways.

I can explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment.

I can recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.

### Important facts

**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.

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.

### Vocabulary

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.

### Key knowledge/diagrams

The diagram shows a tree of life with various animal groups labeled: Invertebrates, Molluscs, Arthropods, Fish, Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds, and Mammals. The camel is highlighted as a mammal. Callout boxes describe its adaptations:

- Its leathery mouth helps it to eat spiky plants.
- Can store fat in its hump.
- Has long eyelashes to keep out sand.
- Can close nostrils to keep out sand.
- Many blood vessels just under the skin to cool the blood.
- Hair on its back protect it from the sun.
- Has long legs to keep the body away from hot sand.
- Padded feet stop camels from sinking into the sand and protect it from the heat of the ground.
- Can go for long period without water.

### What I should know by the end of this unit

**Year 6 Evolution and their 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.