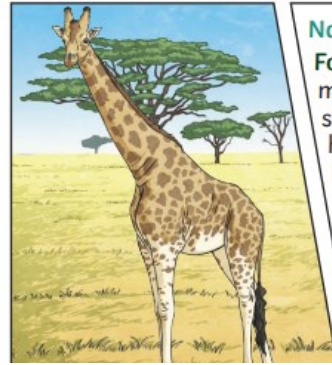


# Evolution and Inheritance

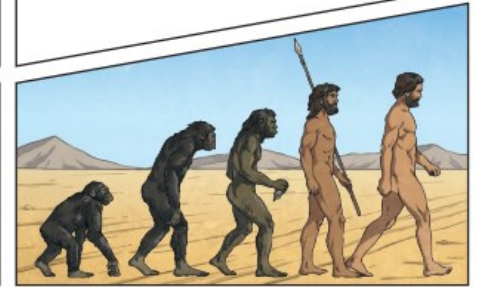
I can identify how adaptation of plants and animals over time may lead to evolution



### 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.

**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!



### 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.



I know that living things produce offspring which are not usually identical to their parents

### Variation

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



### 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.



Key Vocabulary	Definition
Variation	The differences between individuals within a species
Adaptation	A trait or characteristic changing to help a species survive
Evolution	Adaptation over a very long time
Characteristics	The distinguishing features specific to a species
Inheritance	When characteristics are passed on to offspring from their parents
Environment	Contains many habitats where there are living and non living things
Extreme	Reaching a high or the highest degree
Conditions	The circumstances or factors affecting the way a species live
Advantageous	Favourable circumstances that increase the chances of success
Disadvantageous	unfavourable circumstances that reduce the chances of success