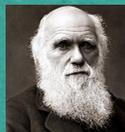


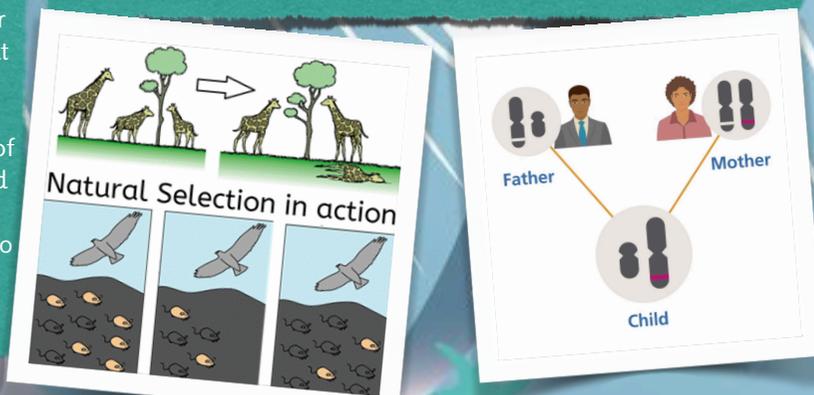
How have adaptations allowed living things to thrive and survive?



Key scientist – Charles Darwin



Charles Darwin was a British scientist who studied plants and animals. He is best known for his ideas about evolution. Darwin suggested that all living things are connected and have changed over a very long time, starting from common ancestors. Today, his ideas are widely accepted and are an important part of science.



Key vocabulary

adaptation	A feature or behaviour that helps a living thing survive in its environment.
ancestor	An early type of animal or plant from which others have evolved.
evolution	The process by which living things can gradually change over time
environmental characteristic	A feature of an organism that comes from life choices or the way that they live.
genes	Small parts of DNA that carry information about inherited characteristics, such as eye colour or hair type.
fossil	The remains or marks of a plant or animal that lived a long time ago and has been preserved in rock.
inheritance	The way characteristics are passed from parents to their offspring.
inherited characteristic	A feature of an organism inherited from a parent through its genes
natural selection	The process where living things with helpful characteristics are more likely to survive and have offspring.
variation	The differences between living things of the same type, such as differences in size, colour or shape.



Key learning

- 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.



Working scientifically focus

- Making predictions
- Recording data
- Concluding and evaluating



Diversity – Our Learning Journey

Year 4
• Classifying plants and animals

Year 6
• Adaptations and evolution



Ethics

Should humans override natural selection and manipulate evolution?