Year 6 – Evolution and inheritance

Why aren't there dinosaurs in Hackney?

Prior learning

In Year 3, you described how fossils are formed and in Year 4 you explained the positive and negative impacts on the environment.

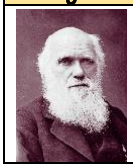
Future learning

In secondary school, you will learn how characteristics are inherited through genes and chromosomes.

In this unit you will:

- 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

Key Scientist: Charles Darwin

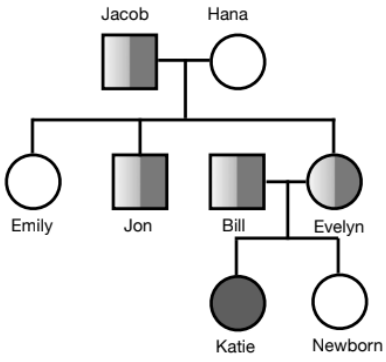


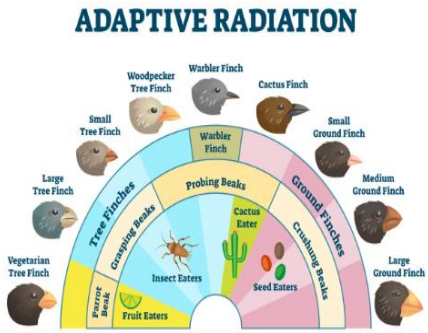
Charles Darwin was an English scientist who travelled the world and discovered many different speies of animals. From this trip, he developed the idea of evolution by natural selection.

Science discipline: Biology

Biology is the study of living things. A biologist is a scientist who studies biology. Biologists try to understand the natural world and the things that live in it.

Scientific diagrams





Vocabulary:

- **Off spring:** The child or young of a particular human, animal, or plant.
- **Sexual reproduction:** Occurs when the sperm from the male parent fertilizes an egg from the female parent, producing an offspring that is genetically different from both parents.
- **Adapted:** To change for a particular use.
- **Inherited:** To receive from a parent or ancestor by genetic transmission.
- **Species:** A group of similar organisms that are able to reproduce.
- **Evolution:** The theory that all the kinds of living things that exist today developed from earlier types.
- **Fossils:** The remains or traces of prehistoric life.