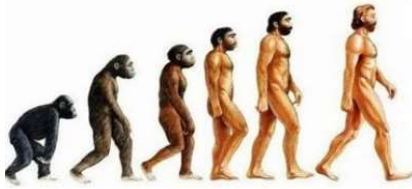




# Evolution & Natural Selection Knowledge Organiser

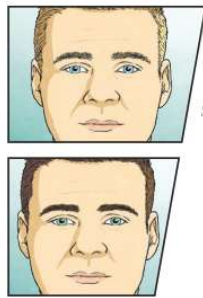
## Evolution



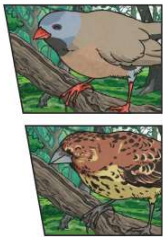
Evolution is the gradual process by which different kinds of living organism have developed from earlier forms over millions of years, Living things continue to evolve – even today!

## 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 you can smell certain flowers.



## 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.

## Variation

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



## Key vocabulary

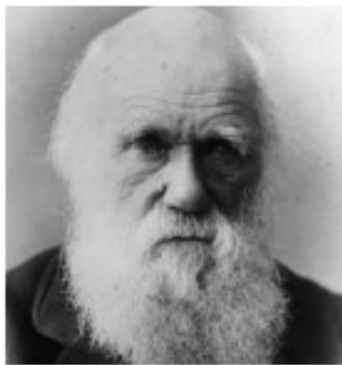
<b>Evolution</b>	A change over a long period of time
<b>Anthropologist</b>	A scientist who studies the origins of mankind (Charles Darwin)
<b>Adaptation</b>	The process of changing to suit a particular environment
<b>Variation</b>	The difference between living things within a species e.g. hair colour
<b>Inheritance</b>	Passing on characteristics from parent to offspring
<b>Natural Selection</b>	When the most beneficial characteristics get passed onto later generations
<b>Species</b>	Organisms with similar characteristics
<b>Extinct</b>	A species that no longer exists in nature
<b>Theory</b>	A thought-out explanation based on observations
<b>Offspring</b>	The young animal or plant that is produced by the reproduction of that species.
<b>Characteristic</b>	The distinguishing features or qualities that are specific to a species.
<b>Habitat</b>	Refers to a specific area or place in which particular animals and plants can live.
<b>Environment</b>	An environment contains many habitats and includes areas where there are both living and non-living things.
<b>Mutation</b>	Characteristics that are not inherited from the parents or ancestors and appear as new characteristics.

## How do we know about evolution?

Evidence of evolution comes from fossils - when these are compared to living creatures from today, palaeontologists can compare similarities and differences. Other evidence comes from living things - comparison



## Charles Darwin



Charles Robert Darwin (12 February 1809 – 19 April 1882) was an English born evolutionary biologist, naturalist and geologist who was best known for his contributions to the science of evolution. He first formulated his theory in his book "On the Origin of Species" in 1859.

