



Science Topic: Evolution and Inheritance

Year: 6 Term: Autumn 2

Key Knowledge/Content:

- Life cycles have evolved to help organisms survive to adulthood.
- Over time the characteristics that are most suited to the environment become increasingly common.
- Organisms best suited to their environment are more likely to survive long enough to reproduce. Organisms are best adapted to reproduce are more likely to do so.
- Organisms reproduce and offspring have similar characteristic patterns.

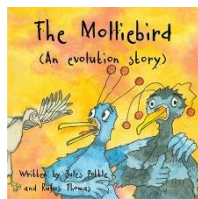
Scientist Focus:

Mary Leakey (paleontologist)

Known for finding fossils to support our understanding of evolution.

Book Link:

The Molliebird: An Evolution Story,
Jules Pottle



Links to:

Prior learning:

To look at which animals live and survive in particular habitats.

Future learning:

To explore natural selection in more detail with groups of living things.

Key vocabulary with definition:

Prior vocabulary:

- Living thing- Something that is alive including through growing, breathing and moving.
- Characteristic- A feature of a living thing.
- Habitat- The natural home of a living thing.

New vocabulary:

- Inherited characteristic- Something which has been passed on from parents.
- Environmental characteristic- Something which has been learned.
- Adaptation- A feature that shows something is suited to a habitat.
- Evolution- How a living thing has changed and adapted over time.
- Mutation- A mistake in genes that changes a living things DNA.
- DNA- The genetic material that a living thing is made from.
- Variation- Living things from the same species will have different characteristics, even if from the same parents.

By the end of this unit

All children can: **describe** how humans have changed over time and **sort** characteristics into “inherited” and “environmental”.

Most children can: **compare** different bird species, their beaks and the food they eat and **describe** how fossils show changes to living things over time.

Some children can: **explain** how cross breeding affects inheritance and **explain** how natural selection affects the evolution of living things.

Background understanding for teachers and parents:

This unit focuses on evolution and inheritance in living things. Children will look at human evolution over time and identify which of their characteristics are “inherited” and “environmental”. They will also looking how animals evolve and are adapted to their environments.

Curriculum Driver (one):

Healthy Lifestyle

Evidence outcome:

Understand that healthy living things have more chance of reproducing, leading to the evolution of a species.