



Trailblazers Cycle A: Spring Term 2 - Evolution and Inheritance (Year 6) Overview, Vocabulary and Sticky Knowledge



What do I already know about The Environment?

In Little Explorers, I learned...

- Animals live in different places called habitats.
- Plants need water, food and air to survive.

In Big Explorers, I learned...

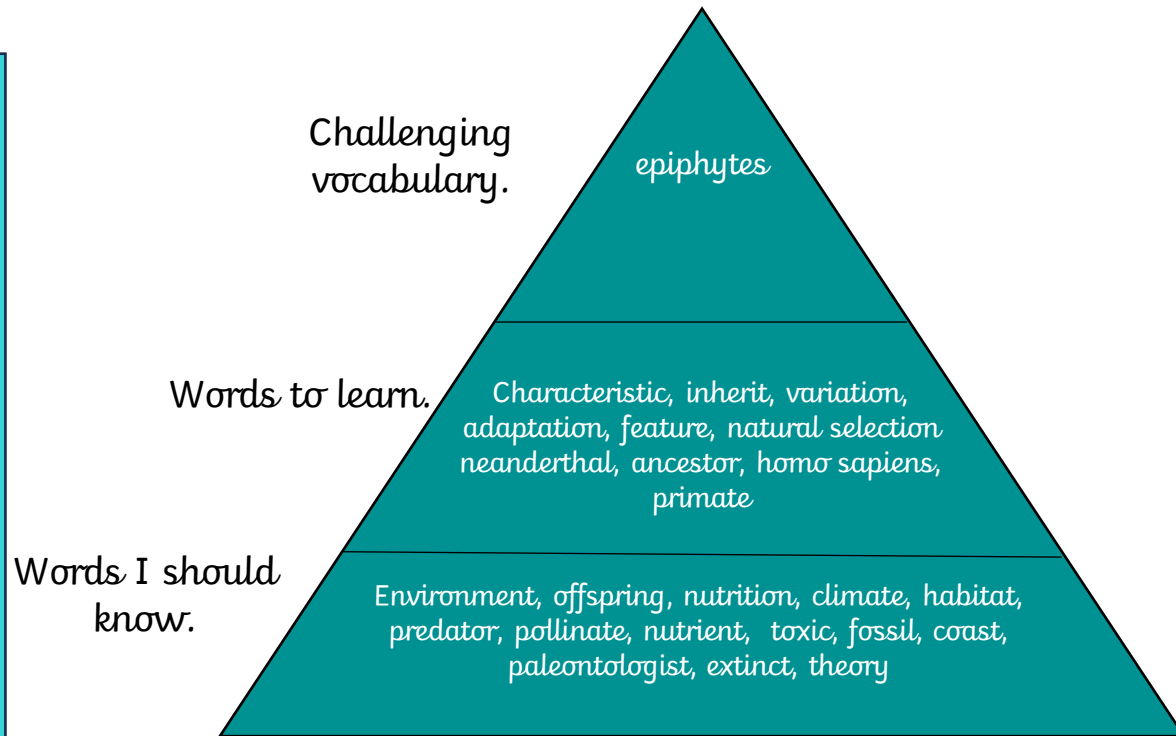
- Animals, including humans have offspring which grow into adults.
- Offspring have similar qualities to their parents.
- Life cycles are the changes that happen through life.

In Philosophers, I learned...

- Skeletons and muscles are for support, protection and movement.
- Plants have a life cycle (pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal).

In Trailblazers, I learned...

- A living thing can be classified into different groups.



Key facts I will learn...

- 1) Characteristics are passed on from parents to their offspring.
- 2) Plants and animals adapt to help them survive in their habitats.
- 3) Charles Dawin suggested that some species share a common ancestor.



Lesson Sequence



1. Understand how offspring vary and are not identical to their parents



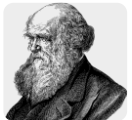
2. Learn about animal adaptations



3. Learn about plant adaptations



4. Explore what we can learn from fossils



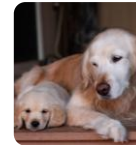
5. Explore the theory of evolution by natural selection



6. Explore human evolution

Characteristics and Variation

A characteristic describes how something looks or how it behaves. **Characteristics** can be passed on from parents to their offspring, meaning that they can be **inherited**. They can include hair colour, eye colour and height. However, **environmental** factors are important too.



Charles Darwin, the Galapagos Islands and Human Evolution

Charles Darwin was a famous naturalist who studied finches and tortoises on the Galapagos Islands. He suggested that some species may share a common ancestor and evolve to suit their habitats. He called this process natural selection.

Australopithecus

Homo habilis

Homo erectus

Homo heidelbergensis/
neanderthalensis

Homo sapiens

3.6 million years ago

Human Evolution

Today

Adaptations

Plants and animals have numerous **adaptations** which help them to survive in their **habitats**.

- Camels have humps to store food, two rows of eyelashes and small slits for nostrils
- Epiphytes are plants which can grow on the surface of another plant
- Some plants contain toxic minerals to protect themselves from predators
- Other plants can store water, trap insects and smother other plants



Fossils

Mary Anning was a palaeontologist who found and collected many fossils along the Jurassic Coast in Dorset. She was the first person to uncover a full ichthyosaurus skeleton.

