Living Things / Evolution (Y5&6)

Sticky knowledge

Animals can be divided into vertebrates and invertebrates. Vertebrates can be divided into five small groups – fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Each group has common characteristics. Invertebrates can be divided into a number of groups including insects, spiders, snails and worms.

Plants and animals are the main groups but other livings things do not fit into these groups e.g. micro-organisms such as bacteria, yeast, toadstools and mushrooms.

Plants are divided into two main groups –flowering& non-flowering.

Offspring often vary are not identical to their parents.

Plants and animals have characteristics that make them adapted to their environment. Quick environmental changes may not suit living things and they will die. Slow changes mean that living things are best suited survive in greater numbers to reproduce and pass their characteristics on to their young.

Over time inherited characteristics become more dominant within the population. Over a very long period of time these characteristics may be so different to how they were originally that a new species is created. This is evolution.

Fossils give us evidence of what lived on the Earth millions of year ago and provide evidence to support the theory of evolution.

Subject Vocabulary (sticky)

classification	is a system of categorizing living things
micro-organisms	a bacterium, virus, or fungus
fossils	the preserved remains of a prehistoric organism
adaptation	change in the structure or behaviour of a living thing which helps it to become better fitted to survive
evolution	changes in living things over a long time leading to a new species
characteristics	a distinguishing quality, trait or feature of something
genetics	inherited characteristics
flowering	a plant that produces flowers
non-flowering	a plant that does not produce flowers
vary	differences
inherited	something passed down a family line
species	a group of living things consisting of similar individuals capable of exchanging genes
survival of the fittest	originated from Darwinian evolutionary theory as a way of describing natural selection
natural selection	when things better adapted to their environment tend to survive