

Parent / Carer Guide

KS2 · Year 6 · Evolution and Inheritance · how to help at home

A jargon-free guide for parents and carers

What your child is learning

Your child is learning how living things change over a very long time. They look at how fossils give clues about the past, why children are similar to but not exactly like their parents (variation), and how animals and plants are suited (adapted) to where they live.

Key words to use at home

evolution · inheritance · variation · offspring · characteristics · adaptation · environment · fossil · species · natural selection · generation · Charles Darwin

Three quick ways to help (5-10 minutes each)

- Spot the family resemblance: look at photos and name features passed down (inherited) versus things that happen during life, like a scar (environmental).
- Adaptation hunt: in a park or garden, ask why a duck has webbed feet or a cactus has spines - link each feature to surviving in its home.
- Fossil chat: watch a short clip about dinosaurs and ask what a fossil can and cannot tell us.

Questions to ask

- What is the difference between something you inherit and something from your environment?
- Why are you similar to your parents but not identical?
- How does a feature help an animal survive where it lives?

Top tip

Use the real words - evolution, variation, adaptation, inherited. Hearing them at home helps your child use them confidently in class and in tests.