

Evolution & Inheritance

Year 6 · Science · inheritance, fossils, adaptation & evolution

Name _____

Class / Year _____

Date _____

Score _____

Answer in full sentences where asked. Use the key words box to help with your spelling.

Key words

inheritance – characteristics passed from parents to offspring **variation** – differences between living things **fossil** – the preserved remains or trace of a living thing from long ago
adaptation – a feature that helps a living thing survive in its habitat **evolution** – the gradual change in living things over very many generations

Questions · 23 marks · show your working

A · Inheritance & variation

1. Living things produce offspring of the same _____. [1]
2. Give one example of a characteristic a puppy might inherit from its parents. [1]
3. Offspring are not identical to their parents. What is this difference called? [1]
4. Name one human characteristic that is inherited and one that is caused by the environment. [2]

B · Fossils

1. What is a fossil? [1]
2. How do fossils give us evidence about the past? [2]
3. Mary Anning is famous for collecting fossils. In which type of rock are fossils usually found? [1]

C · Adaptation

1. What does it mean if an animal is 'adapted' to its environment? [1]
2. Explain one way a polar bear is adapted to live in the cold. [2]
3. A cactus lives in a hot, dry desert. Describe one adaptation that helps it survive. [2]

D · Evolution

1. Over very many generations, helpful adaptations become more common. What is this gradual change called? [1]
2. Whose theory explained evolution by natural selection? [1]
3. Why might animals with a helpful adaptation be more likely to survive and have offspring? [2]

E · Reasoning ★

1. On an island, finches with stronger beaks survive a year when only hard seeds are available. Explain what might happen to the finch population over many generations. [3]

2. A pupil says 'a giraffe stretched its neck during its life, so its babies were born with long necks.'
Explain why this is not how inheritance works. [2]

Grown-up & teacher RAG check — circle one after marking

● **RED** · reteach

● **AMBER** · more practice

● **GREEN** · confident, move on