

UKS2 – Lesson Plan 4

How do plants and animals change over time?

Aim: To explore the concepts of evolution and inheritance in living things.	Key Words: Evolution, inheritance, adaptation, traits, species	Preparation: • Pictures of animals and plants that show adaptations (e.g., Darwin's finches, polar bears, cacti) • Video clips or short documentaries about evolution • Worksheet with simple questions on adaptation and inheritance
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Prior Learning: Basic understanding of living things and their habitats.

Warm-up:

Start with a discussion about family traits. Ask children if they share any characteristics with their family members (e.g., hair colour, eye colour). Show pictures of animals that have special adaptations and ask what they think those features help them do (e.g., webbed feet for swimming, long necks for reaching food).

Main Teach:

1. **Introduction to Evolution:** Explain that evolution is the process by which living things change over a long time to adapt to their environments. Use examples of animals like Darwin's finches or polar bears to show how their bodies have changed to help them survive.
2. **Inheritance and Traits:** Discuss how traits (like fur colour or plant height) are passed down from parents to offspring. Explain that some traits help animals and plants survive better, and those traits are more likely to be passed on.
3. **Adaptation in Action:** Show pictures or video clips of animals and plants with clear adaptations to their environments. Explain how these adaptations help them survive, such as camels storing fat in their humps for long journeys in the desert.

Activity:

Create an Adaptation Poster: Children choose an animal or plant and create a poster showing how it has adapted to its environment. They label the different adaptations and explain how these traits help the species survive. For example, children might illustrate how a cactus has thick stems to store water or how an owl has large eyes for night vision.

Extension Challenge:

Invent a New Species: Ask children to imagine a new animal or plant that lives in a specific environment (e.g., the desert, the Arctic). They draw their new species and explain what adaptations it has to help it survive.

Plenary:

Review the key points of evolution, adaptation, and inheritance. Ask children to explain in their own words how animals and plants change over time and how traits are passed on. Discuss some of the examples of adaptations from their posters.

ART	Children create a series of drawings showing an animal evolving over time, starting with an early version of the species and showing how it changes to adapt to a new environment.
Geography	Explore how different environments (e.g., rainforests, deserts, polar regions) affect the animals and plants that live there. Research how these environments have influenced the evolution of species.