

Future careers connected to Evolution and Inheritance: Geneticist, DNA Analyst, Biological Researcher, Conservationist



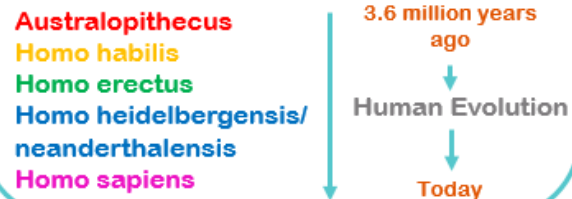
Key Vocabulary

WORD	DEFINITION
Adaptation	changes or special features of a living thing to help it live in a habitat
Ancestor	a person/living thing an organism is descended from
Epiphytes	plants that grow on the surface of other plants
Evolved	how living things gradually change over time
Fossil	the remains or impression of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock
Homo sapiens	the scientific name for the human species
Ichthyosaurus	a large marine reptile that lived 201-194 million years ago
Inherit	when features are passed on from parents to offspring
Natural selection	survival and reproduction of the fittest
Palaeontologist	a scientist that studies the remains of plants and animals found as fossils

Key Knowledge

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.



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.



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.



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



