



Variation and Adaptations



Key Vocabulary

variation	differences between organisms
adaptations	characteristics which improve the chances of survival in a habitat
inheritance	the passing on of characteristics from parent to offspring
organism	a living thing such as an animal, plant, bacterium or fungus
species	a group of organisms that can reproduce with each other to create offspring
offspring	the young of a living thing
characteristics	the features of an organism, used to identify individuals or a group
evolution	the process where descendants develop different characteristics from their ancestors, eventually creating new species
habitat	an area where organisms live
common ancestor	an ancestor shared by two or more descendant species
natural selection	the process where organisms which are better adapted to their habitat are more likely to survive and reproduce

Key knowledge

All living things have changed over time.

Living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.

Animals and plants adapt to suit their environment in different ways.

Adaption may lead to evolution.

Charles Darwin is an English naturalist and biologist who proposed a theory of how new species came to exist

In 1831, **Charles Darwin** set off on a journey on the HMS Beagle. He visited the Galapagos Islands in 1835.

