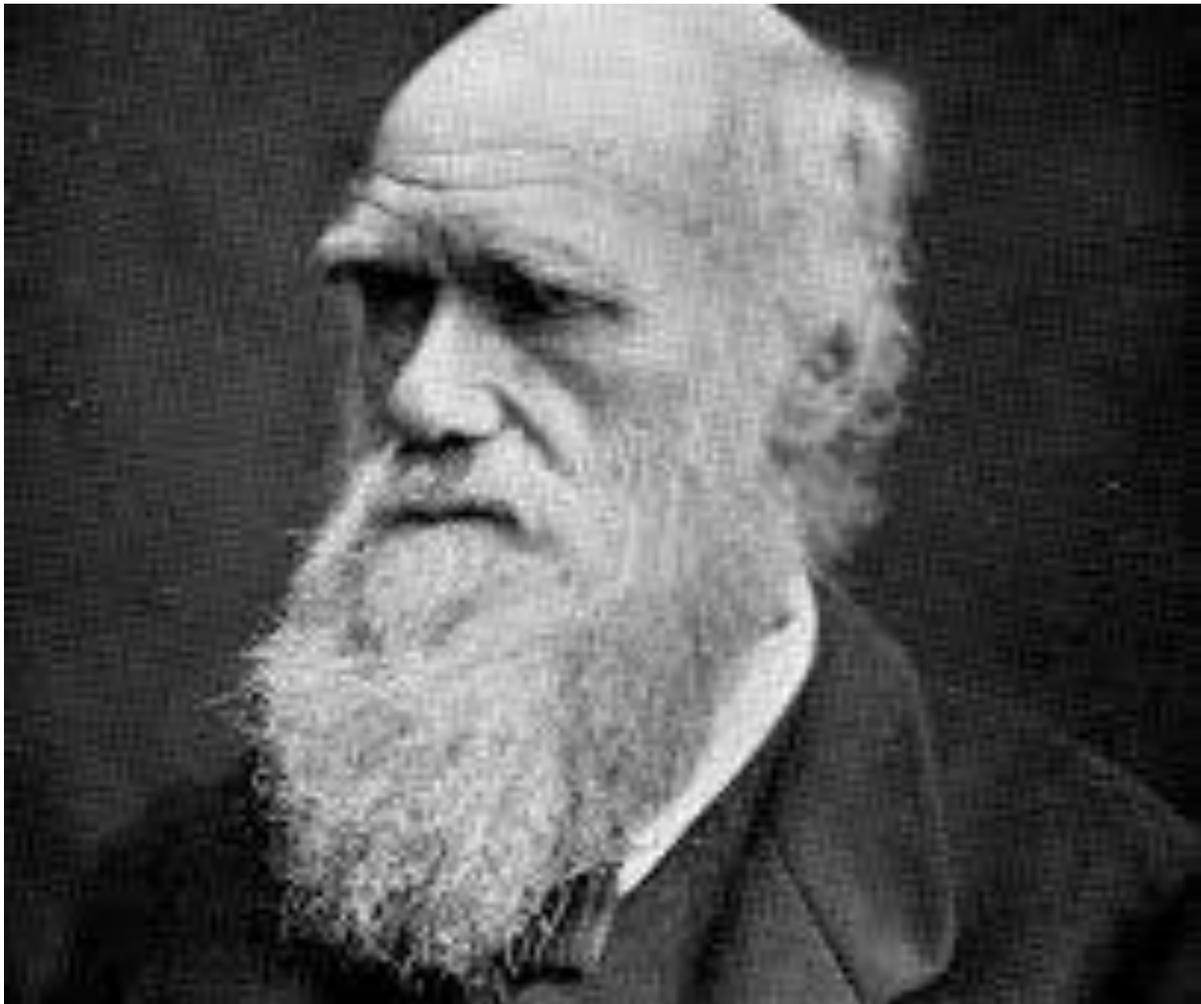




Darwin's discoveries

How do Charles Darwin's discoveries show nature's adaptation?



Overview of theme:

This unit will have a scientific emphasis and will build upon work from previous years where children learnt about how humans change into old age and they noticed that animals, including humans, have offspring, which grow into adults. In this unit, the children will work scientifically to discover how living things change over time and learn how fossils can provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago. The main intent of this theme is to teach the children to identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution over time.

By the end of the topic, the children will be able to recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.

We also continue with our Ancient Greek topic, which continues to use the history of Ancient Greece to explore how the past has influenced many aspects of modern life. The Greeks introduced democracy and a legal system, both of which inform how we run our country today. In addition, we will be focusing on Greek thinkers and tracing the development of the modern Olympics from its Ancient Greek roots.

By studying this period of history, we will have the opportunity to develop an understanding of the importance of the democratic process, drawing parallels with our own system of government.

Planned visits and school workshops:

In this unit, the children will be **using the school grounds** during our revision sessions as a base for treasure hunts and outdoor learning.

Greek Day, April 1st – children invited to dress as an Ancient Greek for the day

Useful information and reference for parents:

A trip to the **British Museum** would be beneficial, where you can look at original artefacts. Also, look out for buildings featuring Greek temple designs.

In addition, a trip to the **Natural History Museum** would allow children to explore Darwin's Theory of Evolution in further detail.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvhhvcw>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z87tn39>

<http://www.ancientgreece.co.uk/>

Homework linked to theme:

The children have all received revision packs from the 1:1 meetings and we recommend they work through these.

Remember to also use: Mathletics, Times Table Rockstars, Spelling Shed and the school website.

Curriculum over for the half-term and cross-curricular links to the main theme:

Subject focus of the theme: Science

Core text: The Highwayman by Alfred Noyes

English To write a newspaper article
To write a short story
Pupils to focus on: multi-clause sentences, all advanced punctuation, ambitious verb forms including subjunctive, simple/perfect/progressive verbs.

Mathematics Statistics (pie charts and averages), coordinates, measures and geometry
After studying these topics, we will be moving into a period of revision in order to re-cap on the topics covered in KS2 and working on test taking techniques with the pupils.

Science To recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.
To recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.
To identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.

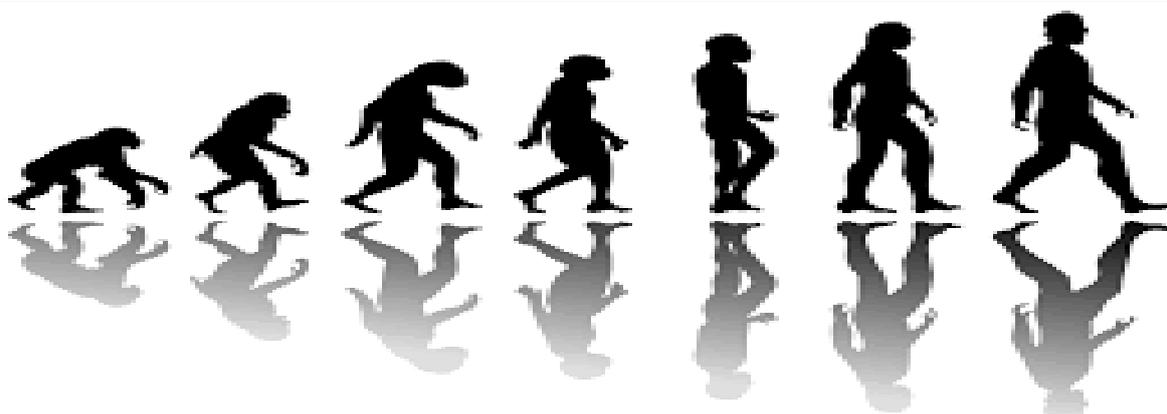
Art and design To investigate animals in their natural habitats using a variety of artistic media: printing (polystyrene, monoprinting, screen printing), oil pastels and textiles.
To create a map of the route of the beagle using textiles and sewing.

Computing Introduction to coding

History Greek democracy
The differences and similarities between the modern day and the ancient Olympics
Prominent Greek thinkers
The legacy of the Ancient Greeks

PE This term, the children will be focusing on dribbling, defending and attacking and shooting within the sports of basketball and dodge-ball. They will also be developing movement and balance skills through gymnastics.

PSHE How to resolve conflicts between friends and family members



Sequence and structure to curriculum theme

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Which of your features are inherited and which are environmental? | To identify that some characteristics are inherited through our 'genes' while other characteristics come from the life choices we make and the way that we live, such as where we live and the food we eat or exercise we take. Recap on what we have learnt so far about Ancient Greece: Geographical features of Greece, development of city states (Athens v Sparta), the Greek theatre |
| 2. Animals and how they have adapted over time | To identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution. Focus on different fox species throughout the world and consider how they have adapted to their differing habitats. The Olympics What was the origin of the games? How have they changed? Providing commentary for some of the early events |
| 3. Natural selection or survival of the fittest | To understand that adaptation of plants and animals to suit their environment may lead to Evolution. Focus on the peppered moth often referred to as Darwin's moth and explore why it is an example of Darwin's theory of natural selection. Greek democracy How truly democratic was it? How has it influenced our politics today? |
| 4. Fossils and their formation | Consider how fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago. Explore how fossils are made and dated. Greek thinkers Exploring the work of mathematicians, philosophers and writers such as Pythagoras, Archimedes, Socrates, Herodotus and Plato. |
| 5. Anning, Darwin and Wallace | To recognise the role fossils have in the development of evolutionary theory and to learn more about the work of Anning, Darwin and Wallace What have the Greeks done for us? Looking at the legacy in our buildings, politics and culture Finishing with Greek Day |

Children's learning

By the end of this theme, the children will:

- Understand why living things have changed over time
- Know how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment
- Have an understanding of how fossils provide information about life on Earth millions of years ago
- Have learnt the following key vocabulary: evolution, adapted/adaptation, offspring, characteristics, vary/variation, fossils, theory, opinion