

inheritance	characteristics that are passed on to offspring from their parents
evolution	the process of adaptation over a long period of time
adaptation	characteristics that are influenced by the environment the living thing lives in
characteristic	a distinguishing quality, trait or feature of an individual
variation	the presence of differences between living things of the same species
parent	an organism that produces or generates offspring
natural selection	adaptations making some species stronger and surviving, whilst others die out/become extinct
offspring	descendants from parents
DNA	DNA carries the characteristics that we inherit
cells	the building blocks of all living things

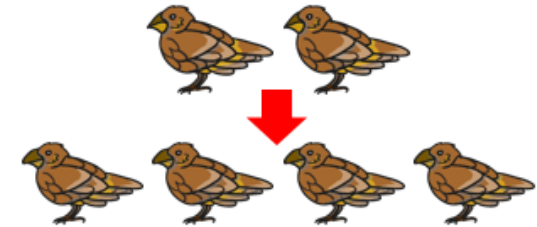
Who was Mary Anning?

Mary Anning found the fossils of prehistoric animals. Today many children like finding out about dinosaurs. When Mary was a child, no one knew about these long-dead animals. Mary's fossil-hunting helped change the way people thought about the world.



The Galapagos Finches

The Galapagos finches with large beaks had offspring. More of these offspring **inherited** large beaks and so Galapagos finch species started to **evolve** to have longer beaks. This is an example of how animals and plants **adapt** to their changing environment. This process of adaptation is **natural selection**.



Who was Charles Darwin?

Charles Darwin was an English scientist. He is most well-known for his theory of evolution. Today, Darwin's theory of natural selection has been widely accepted as scientific fact, and new fossil discoveries are constantly adding to our knowledge of the different stages of evolution.



variation



inherited traits

