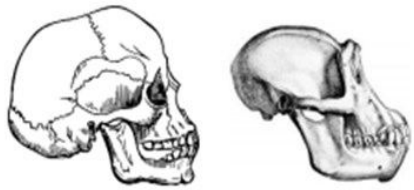


Who was Darwin and was he right?

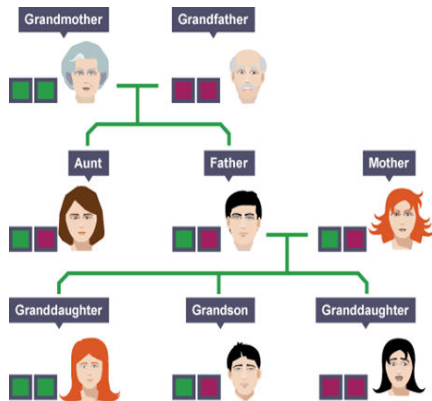


HUMAN SKULL CHIMPANZE SKULL

When palaeontologists compare fossils to animals from today, they can see similarities and identify relationships between them. Since evolution of a species happens over such long periods of time, evidence is usually taken from fossils.



Natural selection occurs when organisms that are best suited to their environment survive and pass on their genetic traits through reproduction.



When parents have offspring, they pass on their physical traits. The offspring inherit their parents' qualities. This means that most offspring look like their parents but they are not identical. The offspring may take characteristics from the father, the mother or a mixture of both.

Inherited characteristics: eye colour, nose shape, height

Environmental/acquired characteristics: singing voice, drawing skills



Adaptations that allow it to survive:

- transparent fur that reflects light and looks white to camouflage
- small humps on pads of feet to grip the ice
- sharp claws to kill



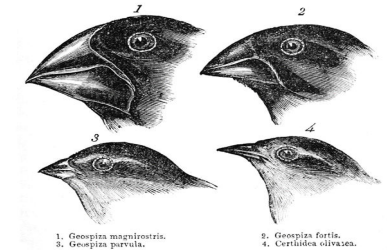
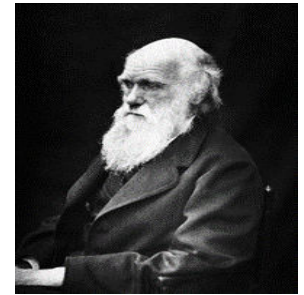
Adaptations that allow it to survive:

- long roots to reach for water
- spikes to protect itself from attack
- large thick stems to store water

Charles Darwin was an English scientist best known for his theory of evolution.

He was a geologist who went travelling in 1831 on the HMS Beagle. He saw many animals and plants and came up with the idea of natural selection (the strongest survive and evolve).

His book 'Origin of the Species' was released in 1859 and was controversial because it went against the creation story in the Bible.



1. Geopelia magellanicus, 2. Geopelia fortis, 3. Geopelia parvula, 4. Certhidea olivacea.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Offspring | Children or young of a particular parent |
| Adapt | To adjust or modify |
| Evolution | The way in which living things change over millions of years |
| Variation | How two or more things are different |
| Inherited | Received by transmission of hereditary traits |
| Genetics | The study of how characteristics of parents are given to their children by their genes |
| Characteristics | A typical or notable quality of someone or something |
| Species | Sets of animals/plants that have similar characteristics to each other and can breed |