

Y6 Evolution Inheritance

KS2 Y6 Science · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Why did dark peppered moths become common near Manchester in the 1800s?

Step 1 · Variation

Most moths were pale; a few were dark

Step 2 · Change in environment

Factory soot blackened tree bark

Step 3 · Survival

Birds spotted pale moths on dark bark more easily; dark moths survived more often

Step 4 · Inheritance

Dark moths bred and passed on their colour; over many generations most moths became dark

Answer: Natural selection: the environment changed, so dark moths survived and reproduced more, and the dark form became common.

Check: When air became cleaner after the 1950s, pale moths became common again.

2. Now try one with the steps

What did Charles Darwin notice on the Galápagos Islands?

Step 1 · The voyage

Step 2 · The finches

Step 3 · His idea

Step 4 · The book

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. What is evolution?

2. Who wrote 'On the Origin of Species'?

3. In which year was 'On the Origin of Species' published?

4. Which islands did Darwin visit, where he studied finches and giant tortoises?

5. Which scientist came up with natural selection at the same time?

6. What is natural selection?

7. On sooty, dark bark, which peppered moths were more likely to be eaten?

8. Why is variation needed for natural selection?

9. Darwin's voyage lasted from 1831 to 1836. How many years was that?

10. Why do finches on different Galápagos islands have different beaks?

11. Did giraffes get long necks by stretching? Explain.

12. After the air got cleaner, pale peppered moths became common again. Why?

13. Give ONE type of evidence that supports the theory of evolution.

14. Did humans evolve from chimpanzees?

4. Before you hand it in

Thinking an individual animal evolves during its life.

Say 'over many generations, the population changed'.

Thinking animals change because they 'want' or 'need' to.

Use: variation, survival, reproduction, inheritance.

Saying 'humans evolved from monkeys'.

We are more like cousins of chimpanzees, not their descendants.

Thinking evolution always makes things 'better' or more complex.

Say 'better suited to its environment'.