

## Key Vocabulary

**Adaptation:** The process which allows animals & plants to live and survive in an environment (see example of a polar bears adaptations below).

**Environment:** Everything living and non-living in the world we live in.

**Evolution:** The way that living things change over time.

**Fossils:** A fossil is the preserved remains or traces of a dead animal or plant.

**Offspring:** When living things reproduce, their young can be called offspring.

**Palaeontologist:** These are the scientists who study fossils.

**Species:** Groups of plants and animals that are very similar to each other and can produce offspring.

**Variation:** The differences between species of plants and animals.

## Important Scientists:

**Mary Anning:** a palaeontologist who collected and studied many fossils from England.

**Charles Darwin** and **Alfred Wallace:** were the scientists responsible for the theory of evolution.

## Unlock more knowledge by reading and / or visiting:

**Class books:** The Story Of Life, When the Whales Walked & Charles Darwin and the Beagle Adventure.

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

## Evolution of the whale:

This diagram shows how animals have changed (adapted) over time, gradually forming a new species. In this case, the furry, four legged mammal has evolved over a very long time into the whale. This is how all plants and animals have evolved in our world.



## Example of an animal's adaptations to its environment.

