

Evolution

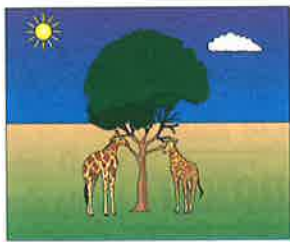
Evolution... it's a big word. But don't let it worry you, just take your time reading this page.

Living Things Change Over Time

- 1) Living things vary (have differences from each other).
- 2) Those living things that are best adapted to their habitat are more likely to survive.
- 3) If they survive longer, they'll have more offspring (babies).
- 4) Offspring inherit (get) features from their parents.
This means the offspring will be well-adapted to their habitat too.
- 5) Over time, more and more of the animals (or plants) will end up with features that make them well-adapted to their habitat.
- 6) This is how living things change over time. It's called evolution.

EXAMPLE: Giraffes have Evolved to Survive

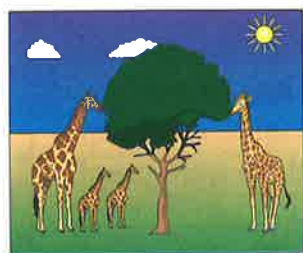
Here are some giraffes to help make evolution clearer...



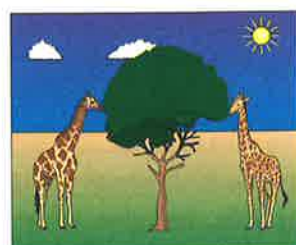
Once upon a time there was a group of animals munching leaves from trees.



Soon all the leaves on the lower parts of the trees were gone and the animals started to get hungry — some even died.



Except that is, a couple of animals that had slightly longer necks than normal. This meant that they could reach just that bit higher, to the yummy leaves higher up the trees. They survived and had lots of babies.



The babies also had longer necks, and could reach up the tree for the yummy leaves. Over time all giraffes ended up having long necks...