

Evolution and Inheritance: Inheritance

Aim: Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents in the context of inheritance. I can explain the scientific concept of inheritance.	Success Criteria: I can identify inherited characteristic that are passed on from parent to offspring. I can explain how inherited characteristics can lead to variation.	Resources: Lesson Pack
	Key/New Words: Inheritance, animals, plants, humans, parent, offspring, similarities, differences, characteristics, variation.	Preparation: Evolution and Inheritance Key Vocabulary Activity Sheet - 1 per child Inherited Characteristics Cards - 1 per group

Prior Learning: It will be helpful if children have learnt about variation in the context of classifying living things.

Learning Sequence

	Key Vocabulary: Using the Evolution and Inheritance Key Vocabulary Activity Sheet , children will reflect on their understanding of the main terms to be used in this unit. They should write a concise sentence or two for each word. <i>(This activity sheet will be completed in the final lesson to evidence the learning over the course of the unit.)</i>	
	Cells, Chromosomes, DNA and Genes: Give a simple explanation of all four terms to support the children's understanding in this unit.	
	Variation: <i>What does variation mean? What causes variation?</i> Children discuss these questions with their talk partners before feeding back to the whole class. Introduce children to the ideas of how inherited genes can change a species over many generations.	
	Inheritance: Explain the meaning of inheritance and what inherited characteristics are.	
	Parents and Offspring: Children match the parents and offspring on the IWB. <i>How did you match the parents and offspring? What are the inherited characteristics that you could spot?</i>	
	Inheritance and Variation: Explain how inherited characteristics lead to both similarities and differences between parents and offspring.	
	Inherited Characteristics: Place children in mixed ability groups and ask them to sort the Inherited Characteristics Cards based on whether the characteristics can be inherited or not.	
	Inheritance Characteristics Answers: Reveal answers and discuss why some characteristics are inherited and others are not.	

Taskit

Investigateit: Children could take photographs of their parents and themselves and use the [Investigating Inheritance and Variation Activity Sheet](#) to identify their inherited characteristics and how they vary from their parents.

Drawit: Using the differentiated [How Might Offspring Vary from Parents? Activity Sheet](#), children draw more than one example of how the offspring might look based on the characteristics of the parents, identifying the inherited characteristics from each parent.