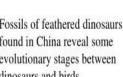
## Year 6: Evolution and inheritance

Fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of vears ago.

# How do fossils provide evidence for Evolution?

- Fossils provide physical records of organisms that are not alive today.
- These are very helpful for scientists to study body structures of ancient organisms and relate them to modern species.
- Fossils also are evidence of the rate of evolutionary change.
- Fossils in intermediate stages between species and their ancestors give clear evidence of evolution.

Fossils of feathered dinosaurs found in China reveal some evolutionary stages between dinosaurs and birds.



### Adaptation:

Identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.



Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents

Different offsprings, from the same parents.



## **KEY VOCABULARY**



Adaptation—How living things are specialised to suit their environment.



Evolution—The process by which living things can gradually change over



Fossil—the remains of ancient life that have been preserved by natural processes.



Inheritance—The process of passing on features from parents to offspring.



Natural Selection- a process by which a species changes over time in response to changes in the environment, or competition between organisms, in order for the species to survive.



Offspring- the young born of living organisms.



Species—A group of living things with very similar characteristics that are capable of producing fertile offspring.



Variation—The differences between living things in a species





The first person who explained how evolution happens was Charles Darwin with his scientific theory of natural selection. He published his scientific theory of natural selection in a book called 'On the Origin of Species' in 1859. Darwin's theory explained how every living thing is connected in a family tree that stretches back billions of years to the beginning of life on Earth.