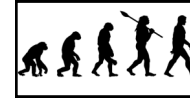
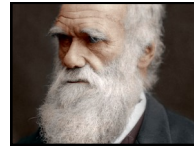
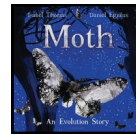


Survival of the Fittest



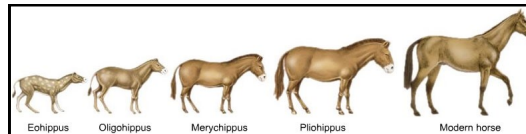
Background Information

During this topic, the children will be delving deep into the world of evolution and the survival of the fittest. Throughout spring 2, they will be investigating plant and animal adaptations in our science lessons. Are their characteristics inherited from previous generations or are they influenced by their environment? The children will spend lesson time exploring how animals have changed over time and will learn that fossils can provide us with information about animals from millions of years ago. In art, the children will develop their drawing skills by focusing on shading techniques and the use of different drawing tools.



Killer Facts!








- Lifecycles have evolved to help organisms survive into adulthood.
- Over time, characteristics that are most suited to the environment become increasingly common.
- Survival of the fittest meant that the strongest of the species survived and reproduced, whereas the weaker died.
- There are over 340 breeds of dog, yet they all come from one kind of wild wolf that existed many years ago.
- Organisms best suited to their environment are most likely to survive.
- Offspring have similar patterns to their parents.
- Competition exists for food, resources and mates.



Key Vocabulary

Word	Meaning
organisms	an individual animal, plant, or single-celled life form
adaption	A characteristic of an organism that improves its chances of surviving and/or reproducing.
evolution	The theory that all the kinds of living things that exist today developed from earlier types.
variation	A characteristic gained from genetic information passed on from parents.
breed	To produce offspring.
palaeontologists	Palaeontologists use their knowledge of fossils to get a better idea of how life on Earth has changed over different periods of time.
Charles Darwin	An English naturalist, geologist and biologist, best known for his contributions to the science of evolution.
genetics	The study of how certain features pass from parents to their offspring.
Inherited traits	Characteristics that can be passed down from parents, grandparents and even great grandparents.
Environmental traits	Characteristics formed from habitat or human experiences.

Timeline (Key events in chronological order for a history topic)

4.6 billion years ago	3.8 billion years ago	1 billion years ago	530 million years ago	Between 370 and 150 million years ago	130 million years ago	14 million years ago	200,000 years ago	1859
Earth is formed. 	First single-celled lifeform. 	First multicellular lifeform. 	First fish. 	First: amphibians, reptiles, dinosaurs, mammals and birds.	First flowering plants. 	First great apes. 	Our species, Homo sapiens evolve. 	Charles Darwin publishes Theory of evolution.