



Evolution



Latin = *evolvere* = to unroll or roll out

Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace



Theory of Evolution

1859



On the Origin of Species

living things developed from earlier and different species



species change as time rolls out

species



plant or animal

similar characteristics, but not always identical

breed with each other

produce similar offspring



survival of the fittest

(natural selection)



key mechanism of evolution

living things become most suited to the environment



polar bear

brown bear



weaker and less suitable species do not survive



adaption

process of change over a very long time



living things become well-matched to their environment through natural selection



inherited characteristics

eye colour



hair colour

ear lobes



dimples

genes carry

inherited

characteristics



DNA is biological information

passed from parent to offspring



acquired characteristics

blacksmiths get stronger arms by hammering



stronger arms do not get passed to offspring by the effect of hammering

characteristics passed on through genes



(inherited characteristic)

biological variation

differences within same species

Latin = *Canis familiaris* (domestic dog species)



a cat ≠ dog



no biological variation between species

variation = differences between species

biodiversity



variety of life on Earth

the difference between species

measured by species richness in an environment

fossil



remains or traces of a living thing



converted to rock



tells us about life on Earth millions of years ago