



Evolve, Adapt, Survive!

Key Stage 2

Length of Session:

90 minutes: 45 min object handling session followed by 45 min digital trail on the Museum's iPads.

Maximum group size:

32 children plus 4 members of staff.

Session outline

- Through close observation and handling of specimens, children explore how animals have evolved to adapt to survive in their particular habitats.
- We look at Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace's work on natural selection and examine some of the fossil evidence that reveals the history of life on our planet.
- Touch real specimens from elephant teeth and polar bear paws to huge python skins and gliding lizards.



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National Curriculum Areas:

- **Science:** Working scientifically; Living things and their habitats; Rocks; Evolution and inheritance.



Suggestions for pre-visit activities

- Discuss the children's favourite wild animals and whether they think that they will see them on their visit.
- See how many different types of animals or species of a type of animal, for example snakes or fish, your class can name.
- Ask the children why they think there are so many different types of animal species on the planet and where they all came from. Think of as many explanations as they can.

Suggestions for post-visit activities

- Design and make a 'Tree of Life' display showing how animals are related to each other and how they have evolved.
- Give groups of children photographs of different habitats and get them to come up with their own fictional creature that is perfectly adapted to survival there and name it!
- Investigate the fossil history of life on earth and how it has evolved by looking at our 'History of Life in a Single Year' webpage at... <http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/thezone/fossils/history/calendar.htm>
- Act out your own Evolution drama!

Learning Outcomes

- Understanding that there is variation in any population.
- Knowledge that this variation can reveal itself in a wide variety of form and function.
- Understanding that most animals produce many more young than can possibly survive.
- Appreciation that those animals with variations most adapted to their habitats are most likely to survive.
- Knowledge that this leads to the evolution of animals over time and this is a process that continues today.
- Appreciation that this theory is illustrated and confirmed by the huge variety of life that exists and has previously existed on this planet.



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For further details and to book your visit, contact:
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