

# Environment, Ecology and Evolution



## Overview

This term in Science we will be learning about the earth's ecology and environment and some of our older children will also be looking at the process of Evolution as first identified by Charles Darwin. Throughout this unit, children will start to understand the interdependent nature of life on our wonderful planet.

### Here are some key topics we'll be studying:

1. The living things on Earth and the conditions they need to survive
2. The 5 kingdoms of classification
3. Animal habitats and food chains
4. Evolution (for Y5 & 6 and optional for other year groups)



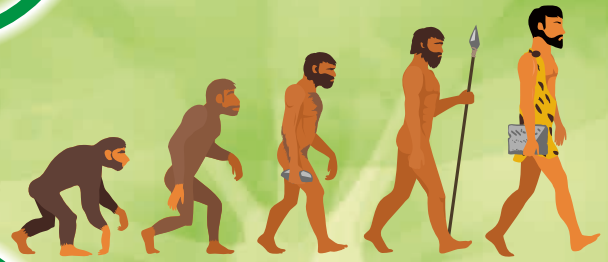
## Key investigations

Our children love practical science and they will be involved in a number of investigations that really help them to develop their scientific skills; planning, data capture and analysis and evaluation. Here is an example of the type of investigation they'll be doing:

**The Sundew plant like the Venus Fly Trap is a carnivorous plant.** Children will look at how and why the sundew plant attracts insects and then they will then try to create their own plant through the use of cotton buds dipped in to a variety of substances. Under timed conditions they will see how many fruit flies were attracted to the different cotton buds and try to evaluate their results. This really brings plants to life!

## Exciting things

You may not know that the word ecology (or *oekologie*) comes from the Greek word "oikos" meaning home, or homeland. You may also not have heard of a scientist called Alfred Russel Wallace. Wallace discovered the theory of evolution at the same time as Charles Darwin and they shared ideas by letter frequently. Darwin however managed to get his work printed first and so Wallace doesn't get the same recognition.



## Things to do at home

Did you know that bees are one of the most important pollinators on earth? But numbers are in decline. We have got together a few simple ways that you can help.

1. Don't use chemicals or pesticides to weed your garden
2. Buy honey from local farm shops to keep local beekeepers able to sustain their hives
3. Plant bee friendly flowers in your garden such as a buddleia or lavender

Find out what you can do to help on this website.

<http://www.bbowl.org.uk/wildlife/wildlife-advice/bees/save-our-bees>

