



# Evolve, Adapt, Survive!

## Key Stage 2

### Length of Session:

**2 hours:** 1 hour object handling session followed by 1 hour self-guided iPad trail around the Museum, featuring TV presenter Steve Backshall.

### Maximum group size:

**32 children** plus 4 members of staff.

## Session outline

- Through handling real museum specimens children explore the evolution of terrestrial vertebrates from the first amphibians to today's huge variety of life on land.
- We investigate how Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace unpicked how natural selection drives evolution.
- In small groups children delve deeper by helping TV presenter Steve Backshall find evidence for evolution with our iPad trail.



Museum of  
**Natural  
History**  
University of Oxford

### 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.
- Recap the themes investigated on the Evolution ipad trail with our downloadable follow-on resource
- 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:  
**[learningzone.oumnh.ox.ac.uk/earth-calendar-year](http://learningzone.oumnh.ox.ac.uk/earth-calendar-year)**

## 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.



Museum of  
**Natural  
History**  
University of Oxford

For further details and to book your visit, contact:  
**[education@oum.ox.ac.uk](mailto:education@oum.ox.ac.uk)**