



KS2 Life processes  
Exhibition-based activity

## It's Life...But Not As We Know It

The Science of Aliens exhibition examines the evolution of life on this planet and uses it as a basis for understanding the potential for the development of life on other worlds.

Go to zone two of the exhibition, Alien Science, and find the displays on the development of life on the Earth. As the children examine these displays they will see that all life evolves and that some features like eyes and wings have evolved many times on Earth. They will also see how life has developed in some of the strangest environments found anywhere on our planet.

Ask the children to explore some of the factors that will affect alien life by getting them to complete the following tasks:

Alien life will be adapted to its particular environment, just like creatures on Earth. In what different ways have the flying squirrel, the tapeworm and the Tarantula evolved to fit the environment in which they live?

Like life on Earth, alien life is likely to evolve from simple to more complex forms. Find the common ancestor of cats, bats, fish and birds. How do these four creatures differ from their common ancestor?

Find the eyes and wings display. What would be the advantages for aliens of having eyes and/or wings?

Aliens might not need the kind of conditions we humans need to survive. Find the display Going to Extremes. How are these creatures able to survive in environments that would kill a human being?