

Introductory Questions

- Have you ever noticed a likeness between you and your parents?
- Has anyone mentioned to you that you are ‘just like your mom’ or ‘just like your dad’. What did they mean?
- Are humans alike or different? Or both? Explain.
- How are you like your mom and/or your dad?
- Why do you think you are like one or both of your parents?
- What do you think the statements means: ‘*it’s in your genes*’
- Did you know that the coloring on butterfly wings and the shape of a bird’s beak are all things that are inherited? (heredity) These are characteristics that we call traits. Can you think of other characteristics? (*hair color, eye color, hair texture, long or short tails on animals, fur vs hair on pets, shape of ears, eyes, color of skin*. Some traits are inherited and some traits are learned. Can you name traits that are learned? (*running fast, playing an instrument, skiing etc.*) Remember, inherited traits you are born with.
- Have you noticed how puppies and kittens resemble their parents?
- Can you think of other things in nature where the offspring has similar likenesses to parents?
- When we inherit things like height, hair color, eye color, these physical characteristics are called traits, how many traits can you think of?
- What traits can you identify for animals? Plants? Humans?
- The various traits that animals have help them to survive in their environment. What animal traits can you think of that help them to survive in their environment?
- What do we call it when we inherit eye color or hair color or when puppies inherit fur color? (*heredity*)
- How can you describe heredity?
- There are physical traits and there are acquired or learned traits. Let’s brainstorm a list of both.