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How You Got Your Looks!

Have you ever wondered why you look like your parents or why your pet has certain features? It's all about traits how they are passed down from one generation to another. Traits are like special instructions that tell your body how to look and behave. They are the things that make you unique—your eye color, hair type, and even how tall you are.

Inherited Traits are the traits you get from your parents. Most of your traits come from your parents. It's like they give you the gift of your features! If your mom has curly hair and your dad has brown eyes, you might inherit those traits too.

These inherited traits are passed down through something called genes. Genes are like secret codes inside your body. There are also variations of traits, so even though you get traits from your parents, you won't look exactly like them. That's because of variation! It's like a twist in the recipe. You might have your mom's curly hair but your dad's freckles. Or your grandpa's smile but your aunt's long fingers.

Sometimes, our environment can also affect our traits. If you eat healthy foods and get lots of sunshine, you'll likely grow strong and be healthy. But if you don't eat well or if you live in a cold place, it might change how you look.

Plants have traits too! Just like you, plants inherit traits from their parents. They might get their flower color, leaf shape, or seed size from their plant family. Traits are like our own personal storybooks, the puzzle pieces all fit together to make each plant and each individual unique.



1. Read the passage about "How You Got Your Looks".
2. Underline each word that you could not read or understand.

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Answer according to the reading passage:

1. Traits are passed down from one-----to another?

- a. relative
- b. generation
- c. female

2. Inherited traits are passed down through?

- a. grandparents
- b. genes
- c. bloodlines

3. You don't look exactly like your parents because of?

- a. traits
- b. genes
- c. variation

4. This can also affect our traits:

- a. weather
- b. climate
- c. environment

5. We aren't the only one with traits, so do:

- a. mountains
- b. plants
- c. rocks

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Open Response Questions

Open Response Questions for Thinking Skills:

1. Inferring
2. Making Connections
3. Summarizing
4. Visualizing

1. What traits did you get from your mom? your dad?
2. Explain how variations in traits happened with some of your traits?
3. List 3 things you know about traits.
4. Describe what an ancestor of your may look like that you never met.

- What would life be like if there was no variation and we looked just like our parent?
- How are you and your parents alike/different?
- Explain how you know that both plants and animals get inherited traits too.
- How many different traits can you list?