

# Inherited, Acquired, and Learned Traits

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Science: Grade 5 - DES

# Journal Response:

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- How would you describe yourself?
    - What is your hair color?
    - Eye color?
    - Short or tall?
    - Favorite hobbies? (besides video and computer activities)
    - Favorite sports?
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# Key Vocabulary

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- ❑ **Traits**=characteristics of living things
  - ❑ **Inherited traits**=a characteristic that a living thing gets from its parents before birth
  - ❑ **Species**=a type of living thing
  - ❑ **Offspring**=babies
  - ❑ **Acquired trait**=a trait that a living thing picks up while growing up
  - ❑ **Behaviors**= ways of acting
  - ❑ **Instincts**=inherited behavior
  - ❑ **Migrate**=move from one place to another
  - ❑ **Hibernate**=when animals sleep for a long period of time
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# Inherited Traits

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- All living things have inherited traits
  - Do you look like your parents, brothers and sisters?
  - People in the same family tend to look alike (eyes, hair, skin color)
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# Inherited Traits

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- Plants and animals look like their parents and like other members of their species
  - Traits are passed on from parents to babies.
  - For example, two black cats will most likely have black kittens
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# Acquired Traits

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- ❑ Traits that a living thing picks up during its life.
  - ❑ They do NOT come from the parents
  - ❑ They are caused by interacting in the environment
  - ❑ Some activities are called **LEARNED BEHAVIORS**
    - Ex: Taking lessons to learn to play the piano
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- Name something you have learned to do.

# Inherited Behaviors

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- Animals are born with instincts that help them survive.
    - Ex: a bird builds a nest by instinct or a spider spins a web
  - Animals show different inherited behaviors based on their environments.
    - Ex: Geese, whales, and other animals migrate to warmer places for survival
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# Inherited Behaviors

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- ❑ Some animals hibernate during the winter.
  - ❑ Some animals are active at night, especially if they live in dry, hot desert. Why?
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# Discussion Question

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- Think of some of your behaviors. How can you tell whether a behavior was inherited or learned?
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