

Inherited and Learned Traits



Grade 5
Life Science



TRAITS

Traits are personal characteristics. They are things about you, such as how you look or what you like.



Inherited Traits

Some traits are given to you by mom and dad through genes.

Genes are DNA information that is in your cells.

We call these traits that are passed down through genes “inherited” traits.



Examples of Inherited Traits

- Eye Color
- Hair Color
- Skin Color
- Height
- Foot size
- Moles, birthmarks, freckles
- Diseases or conditions



Learned Traits/Behaviors

- Some traits are not passed down from your parents, but you learned them over time from those around you or your environment.

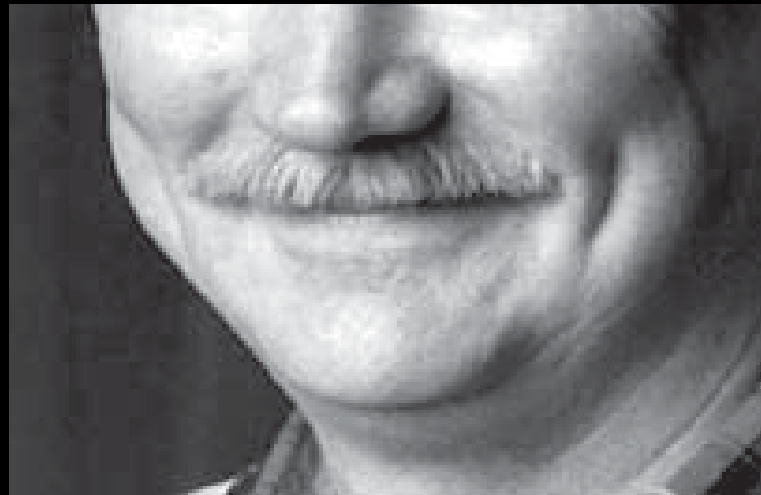


Examples of Learned Traits/Behaviors

- Mannerisms
- Language
- Religion
- Food preferences
- Music likes and dislikes
- Favorite sport

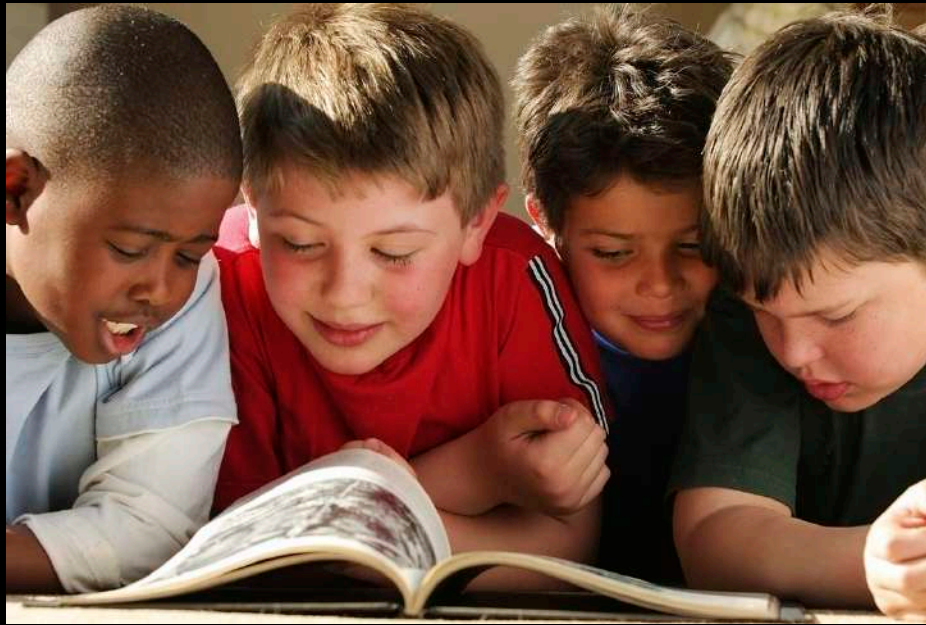


Do you think this trait is inherited or learned?



Dimples

Do you think this trait is inherited or learned?



The ability to read

Do you think this trait is inherited or learned?



Quality of eyesight

Do you think this trait is inherited or learned?



Curled Tongue

Assignment

1. In your own words, what is a trait?
2. Using complete sentences, describe three inherited traits that you received from your parents.
3. Using complete sentences, describe three learned traits that you acquired from those around you.

Sources

EXAMPLES OF INHERITED TRAITS

<http://www.sln.org/csi/knox/Traits/traitsexamples.pdf>

Family Tree

<http://www.kzoo.edu/pfolio/archive/example/jenks/genlesson.htm>