

Heredity

Name _____

dir. _____

Benchmark Question: How are characteristics of living things passed on through generations?

Focus Question: Which traits of an individual offspring may be determined by the parents' hereditary information?

Students will explore the role of heredity in their lives by examining the following traits:

- Imagine the phone ringing. Pick it up. Put it to your ear. Notice which ear you are using.
- Interlock your fingers. Notice which thumb is placed on top. Pull your hands apart and repeat the process in reverse order. Notice how difficult/awkward it is to have the opposite thumb on top.
- Cross and re-cross your arms. Notice which is the dominant way you cross your arms.
- Examine other physical traits you have inherited from your parents:
 - Handedness (right vs. left)
 - Eye color
 - Rolling your tongue in a "U" shape
 - Free or attached ear lobes
 - Widow's peak ("V" hairline on forehead)
 - Hair on fingers between first and second knuckle
 - Cleft chin

Students will record their unique combination of traits/genetic makeup. Students should begin to understand that their unique individual traits are a direct result of the blending of their parents' genetic information.

INHERITED TRAIT #1		INHERITED TRAIT #2		NUMBER OF FEMALES	NUMBER OF MALES
Free ear lobes		Attached ear lobes			
Hair on fingers		No hair on fingers			
Widow's peak		No widow's peak			
Curly hair		Straight hair			
Cleft chin		Smooth chin			
Can curl tongue		Cannot curl tongue			
Left-handed		Right-handed			