

Inheritance and Variation

Post-Visit Lesson Plan

Objectives

- To identify inherited characteristics in living things
- To understand that variation occurs within offspring as well as across a species
- To understand the difference between inherited and environmental characteristics

Outcomes

A completed Inheritance Profile; a list of inherited and environmental characteristics.

**Think back to your visit
to SEA LIFE.**

What did you learn?

**What did you most enjoy
about your visit?**



In pairs, describe or look at photos of your parents.

Discuss which characteristics you have inherited from your parents.

A characteristic is a feature of any organism. It can either be 'seen' (like the color of your hair) or 'hidden' (like your blood type).

Do you share any characteristics with your siblings, or do they look different than you? Start by thinking about the following categories:

Eye color

Hair color

Face shape

Ear lobes

If you don't have a sibling, think about a friend of yours who does. Then share your findings with the class.



Fill in the Inheritance Profile below by inserting images and notes to show the things you and any of your siblings have inherited from your parents.

Parent
no. 1

Parent
no. 2

Offspring
no. 1

Offspring
no. 2

Inherited

Inherited

What are the differences or variations between you and your siblings?

Some characteristics are 'inherited' (come from our parents) through our genes (ex. eye color and whether or not we have prominent ear lobes).

While other characteristics come from the life choices we make and how we live - things like where we live, what we eat and how much we exercise. These are called 'environmental characteristics'.

Sort the cards below into 'inherited characteristics' and 'environmental characteristics'.

Eye color	Tanned skin from the sun
Shape of nose	Height
Language	General health
Migraines	Weight
Blood type	Athletic ability
Tongue rolling	Intelligence
Natural hair color	Skin color

EXTENSION: Which characteristics could be considered a combination of both inherited and environmental characteristics?

Choose a creature that you discussed in your SEA LIFE workshop.

Carry out some research into the inherited and environmental characteristics of your chosen creature.

