

# Habitat Explorers

## Post Visit Lesson Plan:

Inheritance and Variation for Grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>



# 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?**





**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. What similarities does your friend and their sibling have?



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.

 <p>Parent no. 1</p>	 <p>Parent no. 2</p>
 <p>Offspring no. 1</p>	 <p>Offspring no. 2</p>
 <p>Inherited</p>	 <p>Inherited</p>



# What are the differences or variations between you and your relatives?

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  
encountered on your SEA LIFE  
visit.**

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

