

Name/Title: Genes and Heredity

Purpose of Event: For students to be able to identify different traits and whether the traits are inherited or acquired.

Suggested Grade Level: 6th-8th

Materials Needed: 1 Blue and 1 yellow index card for each student

Description of Idea

Define and discuss inherited and acquired traits. Formulate a list through class discussion of both types of traits (use the list below as starters). Explain how each person is a combination of inherited and acquired traits. For example, you may inherit the capacity to grow tall, but may not grow as tall as possible without proper nutrition. Involve the class in a discussion about what differences identical twins have that make each of them unique.

Inherited Traits

- Eye Color
- Hairline
- Hair Color
- Ability to Roll Tongue
- Height
- Skin Color
- Basic Intelligence
- Basic Musical Ability
- others

Acquired Traits:

- Food Preference
- Hair Style
- Clothes Preference
- Language Spoken
- others

Assessment Ideas:

Give each student a yellow and a blue index card. Name each of the traits randomly from the lists above. Students are to hold up a yellow card if the trait is acquired or a blue card if the trait is inherited. Watch to see that students understand without looking at others for help. If they do not, they go over the different types of traits again remembering to include demonstrations.

Submitted by **Kathleen Speakman** who teaches at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg , VA . Thanks for contributing to PE Central! **Posted on PEC: 5/18/2000.**

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