Inherited Traits and Variation

Grade 3 Science Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

1. Which trait of a sunflower comes from its parent plants and not from its surroundings?
   - the shape of its seeds
   - leaves that droop without water
   - how tall it grows in shade
   - a stem bent by the wind

2. A dog with a trimmed coat has puppies. Will the puppies be born with trimmed coats?
   - yes, all traits are passed to offspring
   - no, a haircut is not passed to offspring
   - no, because puppies have no fur
   - yes, because the puppies saw the haircut

3. Which shows variation among pea plants grown from seeds of the same parent?
   - all of them grow from seeds
   - all of them have green leaves
   - some have purple flowers and some have white
   - all of them grow pods

4. Why do sunflower seedlings look like the parent plant?
   - they copy the flowers they see
   - they get the shape from the soil
   - they learn the shape from nearby plants
   - they inherit traits from the parent plant

5. Which pair shows an inherited trait and then a learned behavior?
   - a zebra's stripes; a cat's whiskers
   - a zebra's stripes; a dog fetching a ball
   - a cat's whiskers; a tiger's stripes
   - a dog fetching a ball; a horse jumping on command

6. Puppies in a litter have different ear shapes. Their parents also have different ear shapes. What is the best explanation?

each puppy learned its ear shape

ear shape comes from the food they eat

each puppy inherited a mix of traits from both parents

ear shape changes with exercise

7. A girl has curly hair like her mother and brown eyes like her father. What does this show?

hair and eye color are learned

offspring inherit traits from one parent only

offspring can inherit traits from both parents

offspring look exactly like one parent

8. Which trait is most likely inherited by a pet rabbit?

fur trimmed short for summer

a short tail from an injury

the length of its ears

hopping to its owner for food

9. Which detail about a kitten is learned, not inherited?

the shape of its ears the color of its eyes the pattern of its fur using a litter box

10. A litter of puppies all have spots like their mother, but each has a different number of spots. What does this show?

the puppies have different mothers

an inherited trait can vary among offspring

spots are learned from the mother

spots appear only after an injury

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Science Worksheet

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