Inherited Traits and Variation

Grade 3 Science Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

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

   a short tail from an injury

   the length of its ears

   fur trimmed short for summer

   hopping to its owner for food

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

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

   the color of its eyes

3. 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

   spots are learned from the mother

   an inherited trait can vary among offspring

   spots appear only after an injury

4. Why might two oak seedlings from the same tree have slightly different leaf shapes?

   the gardener chose the leaf shapes

   offspring vary even with the same parent

   one seedling copied a maple tree

   one seedling learned a new leaf shape

5. Which trait could a corn plant pass to its seeds?

   a stalk bent by a storm the color of its kernels leaves dried by a hot week

   a stalk tied to a fence

6. A cat has a short tail because it was hurt as a kitten. Will her kittens have short tails?

yes, kittens copy their mother's tail

yes, every change is passed on

no, an injury is not inherited

no, kittens are born with no tails

7. Which trait of a sunflower comes from its parent plants and not from its surroundings?

a stem bent by the wind

the shape of its seeds

how tall it grows in shade

leaves that droop without water

8. A dog with a trimmed coat has puppies. Will the puppies be born with trimmed coats?

no, because puppies have no fur

yes, all traits are passed to offspring

no, a haircut is not passed to offspring

yes, because the puppies saw the haircut

9. Which shows variation among pea plants grown from seeds of the same parent?

all of them grow pods

all of them grow from seeds

all of them have green leaves

some have purple flowers and some have white

10. Why do sunflower seedlings look like the parent plant?

they get the shape from the soil

they copy the flowers they see

they learn the shape from nearby plants

they inherit traits from the parent plant

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Science Worksheet

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