Inherited Traits and Variation

Grade 3 Science Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

1. Which pair shows an inherited trait and then a learned behavior?

a cat's whiskers; a tiger's stripes

a zebra's stripes; a cat's whiskers

a dog fetching a ball; a horse jumping on command

a zebra's stripes; a dog fetching a ball

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

ear shape comes from the food they eat

ear shape changes with exercise

each puppy learned its ear shape

each puppy inherited a mix of traits from both parents

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

offspring inherit traits from one parent only

offspring can inherit traits from both parents

hair and eye color are learned

offspring look exactly like one parent

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

a short tail from an injury

fur trimmed short for summer

the length of its ears

hopping to its owner for food

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

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

the shape of its ears

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

an inherited trait can vary among offspring

the puppies have different mothers

spots are learned from the mother

spots appear only after an injury

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

offspring vary even with the same parent

one seedling copied a maple tree

the gardener chose the leaf shapes

one seedling learned a new leaf shape

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

a stalk bent by a storm

the color of its kernels

a stalk tied to a fence

leaves dried by a hot week

9. 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

no, an injury is not inherited

yes, every change is passed on

no, kittens are born with no tails

10. 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

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Science Worksheet

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