Inherited Traits and Variation

Grade 3 Science Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

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

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

   a stalk tied to a fence

2. 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

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

   leaves that droop without water

   the shape of its seeds

   a stem bent by the wind

   how tall it grows in shade

4. 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

   yes, because the puppies saw the haircut

   no, a haircut is not passed to offspring

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

   some have purple flowers and some have white

   all of them grow from seeds

   all of them have green leaves

   all of them grow pods

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

   they copy the flowers they see

   they learn the shape from nearby plants

   they inherit traits from the parent plant

   they get the shape from the soil

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

a dog fetching a ball; a horse jumping on command

a zebra's stripes; a cat's whiskers

a cat's whiskers; a tiger's stripes

a zebra's stripes; a dog fetching a ball

8. 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 changes with exercise

each puppy inherited a mix of traits from both parents

ear shape comes from the food they eat

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

offspring look exactly like one parent

offspring inherit traits from one parent only

offspring can inherit traits from both parents

hair and eye color are learned

10. 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

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Science Worksheet

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