# Inherited and Acquired Traits

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

**Remember: Inherited** traits come from **parents** (eye colour). **Acquired** traits are **learned** or come from the environment (riding a bike, a scar).

**Ask:** Were you born with it? Inherited. Did you learn it or get it later? Acquired.

## Born With It or Learned It?

A **trait** is a feature of a living thing. Your eye colour is a trait. So is being able to ride a bike.



**Inherited traits** are passed down from parents to their young. You are born with them. Eye colour, hair colour, freckles and the shape of your ears are inherited. A kitten might have the same fur colour as its mother.

**Acquired traits** are not passed down. A living thing gets them during its life, by learning or from its environment. Speaking French, playing the piano and having a scar are acquired traits. A dog that learns to sit acquired that skill from training.

Some traits are a mix. Your height is partly inherited from your parents, but eating healthy food also helps you grow.

## 1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

**1. What is a trait?**

(a) A feature of a living thing (b) A kind of food (c) A pet

**2. Which is an inherited trait?**

(a) Riding a bike (b) Eye colour (c) Reading

**3. How does a living thing get an acquired trait?**

(a) From its parents (b) By learning or from its environment (c) It is born with it.

**4. A dog that learns to sit has...**

(a) an acquired trait (b) an inherited trait (c) no traits

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## 2. Inherited or acquired?

Circle inherited or acquired.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | curly hair | inherited | acquired |
| 2 | knowing how to swim | inherited | acquired |
| 3 | a puppy's spotted fur | inherited | acquired |
| 4 | a scar on your knee | inherited | acquired |
| 5 | dimples | inherited | acquired |
| 6 | speaking two languages | inherited | acquired |

## 3. Think like a scientist

Answer in a complete sentence.

1. **Name one inherited trait and one acquired trait you have.**

# Answer Key

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## 1. Check your understanding

**1. What is a trait?**

(a) **A feature of a living thing** (b) A kind of food (c) A pet

**2. Which is an inherited trait?**

(a) Riding a bike (b) **Eye colour** (c) Reading

**3. How does a living thing get an acquired trait?**

(a) From its parents (b) **By learning or from its environment** (c) It is born with it.

**4. A dog that learns to sit has...**

(a) **an acquired trait** (b) an inherited trait (c) no traits

## 2. Inherited or acquired?

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|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | curly hair | **inherited** | acquired |
| 2 | knowing how to swim | inherited | **acquired** |
| 3 | a puppy's spotted fur | **inherited** | acquired |
| 4 | a scar on your knee | inherited | **acquired** |
| 5 | dimples | **inherited** | acquired |
| 6 | speaking two languages | inherited | **acquired** |

## 3. Think like a scientist

Sample answer.

1. **Name one inherited trait and one acquired trait you have.**

   I inherited brown eyes from my mom. I acquired the skill of playing soccer.