Heredity Worksheet

What traits do you share with your parents? The study of genetics has taught us so much about why we share certain traits with our relatives. It is also teaching us about medicines for the future. Learn more about heredity on World Book Online and then find the answers to the following questions about the field of genetics!

Find It!

1. What part of cells carries the traits from one generation to the next?
2. Why are about half of all human babies girls and half boys?
3. What is the only way a recessive trait will be expressed?
4. What causes genetic mutations?
5. Generally, evolution by natural selection occurs quite slowly over several generations. What can cause it to happen faster?
6. Give three examples of inherited disorders in humans.
7. Why might some couples preparing to have children seek genetic counseling?
8. What is the difference between a genotype and a phenotype?
9. What are the four bases in DNA?
10. In what book did Charles Darwin propose the theory of natural selection?

Did You Know?

- By studying genetic material in Neandertal bones, scientists have determined that Neandertals (prehistoric human beings) most likely had red hair and pale skin.
- Protein collected from a 68-million-year-old Tyrannosaurus rex bone was found to have a close match to modern chickens. This finding supports the hypothesis that birds evolved from dinosaurs.
- Doctors can use your family health history and what they know about heredity to help you learn about likely diseases and conditions to which you might be susceptible.

Learn More!

- Cloning is the production of an organism with genetic material identical to another organism. Click her to see a photo of a cat and her clone. https://www.worldbookonline.com/student/media?id=pc315375
- DNA biochips are slides that allow scientists to study hundreds or thousands of genes at once. Click here to see what a DNA biochip looks like! https://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar749340
- Learn how genetic disorder, hemophilia, is inherited https://www.worldbookonline.com/student/media?id=pc020244