Born or Expected?

Sort physical sex traits and social expectations.

S.5.1 "Distinguish between biological (ascribed) status and socially assigned gender roles."

NAME _____ DATE _____

BIOLOGICAL STATUS

Biological status concerns physical sex traits and the sex category often assigned at birth based on those traits. It does not tell a person how to behave.

A genetic test finds XY chromosomes in a sample.

GENDER ROLES

Gender roles are expectations about how people should act based on gender. These expectations come from society, not from a person's body.

A community tells its sons that ballet is not for them.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle BIOLOGY or ROLES for each statement; for Part 2, choose two items and explain the clue that helped you sort each.

1. Boys are expected to hide their tears. BIOLOGY ROLES

2. A newborn's sex is recorded based on external genitalia. BIOLOGY ROLES

3. Women are expected to prepare family meals. BIOLOGY ROLES

4. Men are expected to be the main wage earners. BIOLOGY ROLES

5. A person's body produces sperm cells. BIOLOGY ROLES

6. A person begins menstruating during puberty. BIOLOGY ROLES

7. Girls are expected to wear dresses at celebrations. BIOLOGY ROLES

8. Fathers are expected to avoid taking parental leave. BIOLOGY ROLES

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new example of biological status and one new example of a gender role.

BIOLOGY _____

ROLES _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one gender role from Part 1 and rewrite it as a choice instead of an expectation, then explain why that choice does not change anyone's biological status in two sentences.

ANSWER KEY

Born or Expected?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Boys are expected to hide their tears.	**ROLES**	It states an expectation about behavior.
2	A newborn's sex is recorded based on external genitalia.	**BIOLOGY**	It describes a sex category assigned at birth based on a physical trait.
3	Women are expected to prepare family meals.	**ROLES**	It assigns a household task based on gender.
4	Men are expected to be the main wage earners.	**ROLES**	It assigns a financial responsibility based on gender.
5	A person's body produces sperm cells.	**BIOLOGY**	Sperm production is a physical sex trait.
6	A person begins menstruating during puberty.	**BIOLOGY**	Menstruation is a physical process, not a social expectation.
7	Girls are expected to wear dresses at celebrations.	**ROLES**	It sets a clothing expectation based on gender.
8	Fathers are expected to avoid taking parental leave.	**ROLES**	It sets an expectation about caregiving based on gender.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **BIOLOGY**: A person has a cervix.
- **ROLES**: Some people expect husbands to handle home repairs.

Challenge: Anyone can choose whether to wear a dress at a celebration. Clothing choices do not change a person's biological status.

Accept Part 2 explanations that identify a physical sex trait or a sex category assigned from physical traits for BIOLOGY, and a social expectation based on gender for ROLES. Examples for Part 3 should not repeat statements from the worksheet.