Family Traits

Find traits passed from parents to offspring.

L.3.2.1 "Identify traits and describe how traits are passed from parent organism(s) to offspring in plants and animals."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one trait the young pea plant shares with its parents and one trait the baby rabbit got from its parents, then circle the sentence that explains how the pea plant's seed formed.

New Life in the Garden

1. In a school garden, two pea plants grow near a fence. One has purple flowers, and the other has white flowers. Flower color is a trait, a feature of a living thing. The plants also have thin, curling stems that wrap around string. A young pea plant grows from a seed nearby. It has curling stems like the older plants, but its flowers have not opened yet.

2. A seed formed on the purple-flowered plant after pollen from the white-flowered plant helped fertilize an egg inside a flower. The seed held a young plant with traits from both parents. When the seed sprouted, the young plant grew curling stems. It might grow purple or white flowers when it is older. You cannot tell its flower color yet because its flowers have not opened.

3. Near the garden, a brown rabbit and a spotted rabbit have a baby rabbit with brown fur and spots. Fur color and spots are traits the baby got from its parents. The baby began when a sperm cell from one parent joined an egg cell from the other parent. Not every mark on the baby was passed down from its parents. A small scratch on its ear came from rubbing against a branch.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What trait does the young pea plant share with both parent plants?

2. How did the young pea plant get traits from both parent plants?

3. Which two traits did the baby rabbit get from its parents?

4. Was the baby rabbit's ear scratch passed down from its parents? Explain.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine two parent cats and their kitten. In two or three sentences, name one visible trait the kitten could share with a parent and explain how it got that trait. Then name one mark the kitten might get from its surroundings instead.

ANSWER KEY

Family Traits

GRADE 3 · L.3.2.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one trait the young pea plant shares with its parents and one trait the baby rabbit got from its parents, then circle the sentence that explains how the pea plant's seed formed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What trait does the young pea plant share with both parent plants?	**It has curling stems like both parent plants.**
2	How did the young pea plant get traits from both parent plants?	**Pollen from the white-flowered plant helped fertilize an egg in the purple-flowered plant. The seed that formed held a young plant with traits from both parents.**
3	Which two traits did the baby rabbit get from its parents?	**Brown fur and spots.**
4	Was the baby rabbit's ear scratch passed down from its parents? Explain.	**No. The scratch came from rubbing against a branch.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A kitten could have striped fur like one parent. It could inherit this trait through the sperm and egg cells from its parents. A small cut on its paw could come from stepping on a sharp rock, not from its parents.

Accept any reasonable inherited cat trait linked to a parent and a mark caused by the surroundings. Students should distinguish a passed-down trait from a mark acquired after birth.