Family Trait Mix

Read about animal families and trace traits from parents to offspring.

L.3.2.3 "Describe and provide examples of offspring from two parent organisms as containing a combination of inherited traits from both parent organisms."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the traits of each parent. Circle the traits of each offspring, then draw a line from each circled trait to the matching trait in a parent.

Who Looks Like Whom?

1. At a small animal shelter, Mara cares for a mother rabbit with brown fur and ears that stand up. The father rabbit has white fur and ears that fold forward. Baby rabbits are called offspring. They inherit traits, such as fur color and ear shape, from their parents. Each baby may show a different mix of traits. The babies do not need to look just like one parent.

2. When the baby rabbits grow larger, Mara notices two of them hopping near a pile of hay. Clover has brown fur and ears that fold forward. Juniper has white fur and ears that stand up. Both babies have traits seen in this pair of parents, but the two babies do not look exactly alike. Although they share the same parents, their fur and ears differ.

3. Across the room, Mara visits a cat family. The mother cat has gray fur and a naturally short tail. The father cat has orange fur and a long tail. Their kitten, Pebble, has gray fur and a long tail. Pebble is not a copy of either parent. Looking closely at both families helps Mara spot how offspring can show traits from two parents.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which trait of Clover matches the mother rabbit, and which matches the father rabbit?

2. Which trait of Juniper matches each parent rabbit?

3. How does Pebble show a trait from each parent cat?

4. Why would it be wrong to say Clover and Juniper have traits from only their mother?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent two parent dogs with different fur colors and ear shapes. Write three sentences: describe each parent in one sentence, then describe a puppy with a fur color that matches one parent and an ear shape that matches the other.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 3 · L.3.2.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the traits of each parent. Circle the traits of each offspring, then draw a line from each circled trait to the matching trait in a parent. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which trait of Clover matches the mother rabbit, and which matches the father rabbit?	**Clover's brown fur matches the mother. Clover's ears that fold forward match the father.**
2	Which trait of Juniper matches each parent rabbit?	**Juniper's white fur matches the father. Juniper's ears that stand up match the mother.**
3	How does Pebble show a trait from each parent cat?	**Pebble has gray fur like the mother and a long tail like the father.**
4	Why would it be wrong to say Clover and Juniper have traits from only their mother?	**Clover's ears that fold forward match the father, and Juniper's white fur matches the father. Each rabbit also has a trait that matches the mother.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The mother dog has black fur and floppy ears. The father dog has tan fur and pointed ears. Their puppy has black fur like its mother and pointed ears like its father.

Accept answers that correctly match each offspring trait to a parent described in the passage. For Your Turn, the puppy must combine one parent's fur color with the other parent's ear shape.