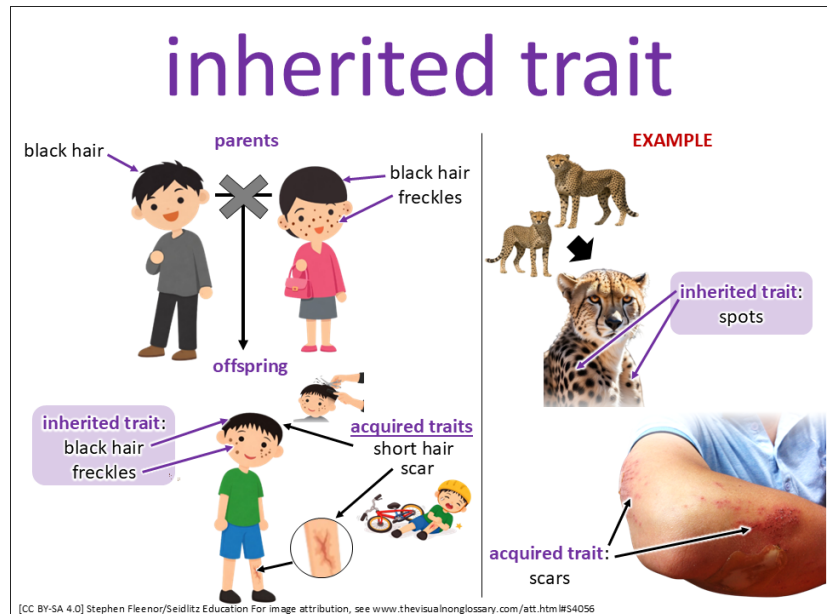


Traits We Carry and Traits We Gain

The purpose for reading is to understand how to tell if a trait is inherited or acquired.

Pay Attention To:

- Traits that are passed from parent to offspring
- Examples of inherited trait in humans and animals
- Clues that help you tell if a trait is inherited or acquired



All living things have physical traits, or characteristics. Some traits are **inherited traits**. These are passed from a **parent** to their **offspring**. For example, a child may have the same hair color or freckles as their parent. Animals also have **inherited traits**. A cheetah gets its spots from its **parent**. A zebra gets its stripes from its **parent**.

Other traits are called **acquired traits**. An **acquired trait** develops over time through interactions with the environment. A person might get a scar or tan skin. Animals can also have **acquired traits**. A dog might get a scar, or an animal may have worn teeth. These traits happen during life and are not passed from a **parent** to an **offspring**.

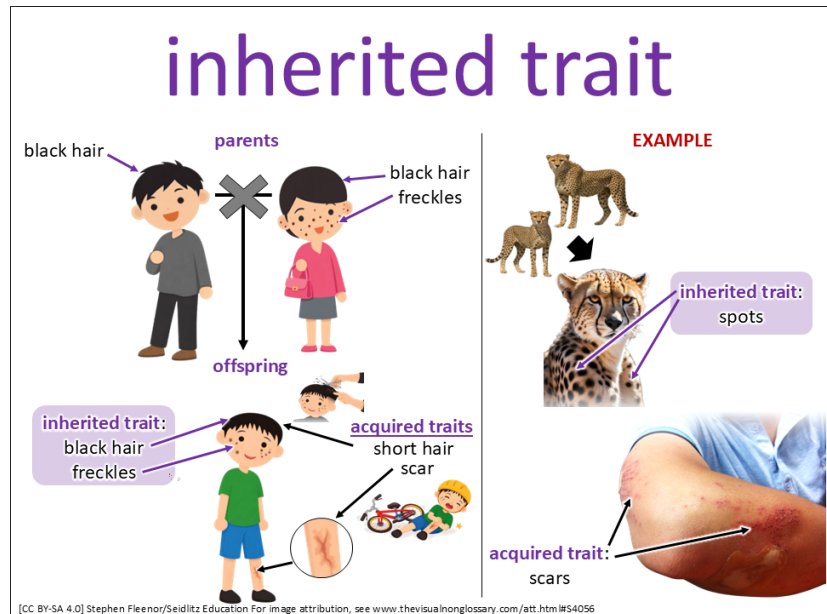
If a trait comes from a **parent**, it is inherited. If it happens during life, it is acquired. We can compare traits to understand where they come from.

Traits We Carry and Traits We Gain

The purpose for reading is to understand how to tell if a trait is inherited or acquired.

Pay Attention To:

- Traits that are passed from parent to offspring
- Examples of inherited trait in humans and animals
- Clues that help you tell if a trait is inherited or acquired



All living things have physical traits, or characteristics, that make them unique. Some of these traits are **inherited traits**, which means they are passed from a **parent** to their **offspring**. For example, a child may have the same eye color, hair color, or freckles as their parent. These traits are present at birth and come from the family. Animals also show this pattern. A cheetah's spots are an **inherited trait** that young cheetahs receive from their parents. A giraffe's long neck, a zebra's stripes, and a duck's webbed feet are also **inherited traits** passed from **parent** to **offspring**.

Other traits are called **acquired traits**. An **acquired trait** develops over the course of an **organism's** life through interactions with its **environment**. For example, a person might get a scar from falling or have tanned skin from the sun. Animals can also have **acquired traits**. A dog might have a scar from an injury, or a wild animal may have worn or broken teeth from the food it eats. These physical traits are not present at birth and are not passed from a **parent** to an **offspring**.

Understanding the difference between an **inherited trait** and an **acquired trait** helps us explain where traits come from. If a trait is seen in both a **parent** and their **offspring**, it may be inherited. If it develops during life, it is likely acquired through the environment.

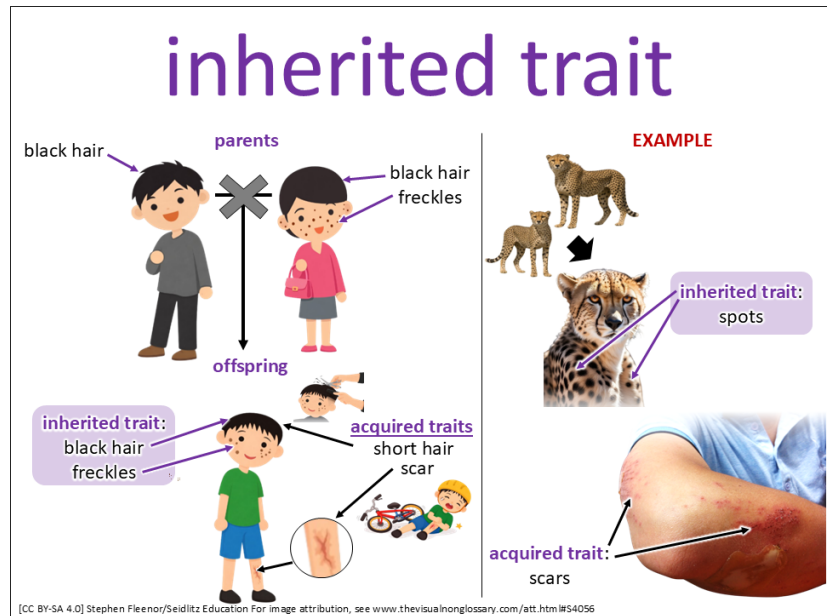


Traits We Carry and Traits We Gain

The purpose for reading is to understand how to tell if a trait is inherited or acquired.

Pay Attention To:

- Traits that are passed from parent to offspring
- Examples of inherited trait in humans and animals
- Clues that help you tell if a trait is inherited or acquired



All organisms have physical traits, or characteristics, that help define how they look and function. Some of these traits are **inherited trait**, meaning they are passed from a **parent** to their **offspring**. These traits are present at birth and are determined by information received from the parent. For example, a child may inherit eye color, hair color, or freckles. Animals also inherit physical traits. A cheetah inherits its spots, a giraffe inherits its long neck, and a zebra inherits its stripes from its **parent**.

In contrast, **acquired trait** develop over time through interactions with the environment. An **acquired trait** develops over the course of an organism's life through interactions with its environment. For example, a person may develop a scar or experience changes like tanned skin. Animals can also develop **acquired trait**, such as scars from injury or worn teeth from eating certain types of food. These traits are not present at birth and are not passed from a **parent** to an **offspring**.

By comparing traits, we can determine their origin. If a trait appears in both a **parent** and their **offspring**, it is likely **inherited**. If it forms as a result of interactions

with the **environment** during life, it is considered **acquired**. This comparison helps scientists and students understand how traits are developed.

