



TITLE: Inherited Traits vs. Learned Behaviors

GRADE LEVEL: 5th

TEKS: §112.16. Science, Grade 5.10.B

CORRESPONDING SAFARI SAM BLOG(S):

- Multiple

MATERIALS:

- Inherited trait cards (see attached)
- Learned behavior cards (see attached)
- Whiteboard markers

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE: Lesson comparing and contrasting inherited traits and learned behaviors

ACTIVITY: Print attached sheet of cards. Laminate each card to allow for multiple uses. This activity may either be done in pairs or as a group.

To play in pairs: Provide one stack of cards and one whiteboard marker per student pair. Place inherited trait and learned behavior cards face down in a stack. Taking turns, student one selects top card from stack and reads the sentence to student two. Student two must decide if the statement is an inherited trait or a learned behavior and give an appropriate explanation for his or her decision. Student one writes “inherited trait” or “learned behavior” on the card. Reverse roles. Continue until all cards are used.

To play as a group: Place inherited trait and learned behavior cards face down in a stack. The teacher draws one card at a time and reads the phrase aloud. Students must agree whether the card is an inherited trait or learned behavior and provide an explanation for the decision. Teacher writes the answer on the card. Continue drawing cards until all cards have been used.

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| <p>A horse wears a saddle and bridle and carries a person on its back.</p> | <p>A cheetah sneaks up on its prey.</p> |
| <p>Chimpanzees use twigs to fish for termites.</p> | <p>A fish swims to the top of an aquarium before food is dropped in.</p> |
| <p>A fish has gills to breathe.</p> | <p>A snake has a diamond pattern on its back.</p> |
| <p>Female kangaroos have a pouch.</p> | <p>A baby sea turtle goes straight toward the ocean after hatching.</p> |
| <p>A bird migrates to the same place every year.</p> | <p>A bobcat kitten has a short tail.</p> |
| <p>A raccoon digs through trash to find food.</p> | <p>A dog shakes paws with a person.</p> |

Answer Key:

- A horse wears a saddle and bridle and carries a person on its back. –***Learned behavior***
- A cheetah sneaks up on its prey. –***Learned behavior***
- Chimpanzees use twigs to fish for termites. –***Learned behavior***
- A fish swims to the top of an aquarium before food is dropped in. –***Learned behavior***
- A fish has gills to breathe. –***Inherited trait***
- A snake has a diamond pattern on its back. –***Inherited trait***
- Female kangaroos have a pouch. –***Inherited trait***
- A baby sea turtle goes straight to the ocean after hatching. –***Inherited trait***
- A bird migrates to the same place every year. – ***Inherited trait***
- A bobcat kitten has a short tail. –***Inherited trait***
- A raccoon digs through trash to find food. –***Learned behavior***
- A dog shakes paws with a person. –***Learned behavior***