

Heredity

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Glossary

adaptation (ad-ap-TAY-shuhn) an inherited body part or behavior that helps a living thing stay alive in its environment (22)

cell (SEL) the smallest unit of a living thing; a building block of life (8)

chromosome (KROH-muh-sohm) a cell part made of a material called DNA; it carries the genes that give a living thing its traits (8)

diversity (di-VUR-si-tee) variety (23)

dominant trait (DOM-uh-nuhnt TRAYT) a trait that appears if a living thing has one or two genes for that trait (18)

environment (en-VYE-ruhn-muhnt) all the physical things and conditions, such as soil, air, climate, plants, and animals, that surround a living thing (5)

gene (JEEN) a section of DNA on a chromosome that has information for a trait (8)

heredity (huh-RED-i-tee) the passing of traits from parents to offspring (4)

inherited trait (in-HER-i-ted TRAYT) a feature passed from parents to offspring through genes (4)

instinct (IN-stinkt) an action that an animal knows how to do without being taught; examples include finding food, caring for young, and building a shelter (4)

learned behavior (LURND bi-HAYV-yur) an action that an animal learns by watching others or from experience (5)

nucleus (NOO-klee-uhs) the part of a cell that controls the cell's activities (8)

recessive trait (ri-SES-iv TRAYT) a trait that appears only if a living thing has two genes for the trait (18)

reproduce (ree-pruh-DOOS) to make more of one's own kind (10)

trait (TRAYT) a feature, such as a body part or behavior, of a living thing (4)

variation (vair-ee-AY-shuhn) a difference between two or more individuals in a species (16)

