

Vocabulary: Inheritance



Vocabulary

- Acquired trait – a trait that is not passed down from parents to their offspring.
 - Examples of acquired traits include dyed hair, pierced ears, broken bones, and scars.
- Asexual reproduction – reproduction in which one parent produces offspring without fertilization of an egg cell.
 - Offspring from asexual reproduction, called *clones*, are identical.
 - Asexual reproduction is practiced by many single-celled organisms, some plants, and a few animals.
- Clone – an organism produced by asexual reproduction.
 - Clones have the same genetic makeup as the parent.
- Codominant traits – traits that are both seen when they are present.
 - For example, a chicken with black feathers and a chicken with white feathers could breed to produce offspring with both black and white feathers.
- Dominant trait – a trait that is always visible in offspring whenever it is present.
 - When the dominant and recessive traits are both present, only the dominant trait can be seen.
- Offspring – a new living thing produced by one or two parents.
- Recessive trait – a trait that is not seen when the dominant trait is also present.
- Sexual reproduction – reproduction caused by the fertilization of an egg cell.
 - Sexual reproduction is practiced by most plants and animals.
 - Usually sexual reproduction involves two parents.
 - *Self-pollination* is a special case of sexual reproduction in which a plant fertilizes its own egg cells.
- Trait – a characteristic of an organism.
 - *Inherited traits* are passed down from parents to their offspring.
 - Examples of inherited traits include skin color, eye color, hair, allergies, and many others.
 - *Acquired traits* are not inherited.