**Traits and Behaviors Assessment Study Guide**

**Offspring:** New living things that come from parents

**Gene:** The part of a chromosome that contains the DNA code for an inherited trait.

**Inherited trait:** A characteristic passed from parents to their offspring.

**Acquired trait:** A characteristic that a living thing is not born with, but acquires during its lifetime.

**Instinct:** A behavior that an organism inherits

**Learned behavior:** A behavior that an animal acquired through experience.

**EXAMPLES:**

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| **Inherited Traits**  Dimples  Attached earlobes  The color of your eyes  The shape of your nose  The shape of a plant’s leaves  Whether or not it produces seeds  The shape of a bird’s beak  The color of your skin  Freckles  Rolling your tongue | **Acquired Traits**  Pierced ears  Purple hair  Broken bones  Scars  A chipped tooth  Muscles  Wearing glasses |
| **Instincts**  Needing to eat to survive  A bird building a nest  A lion hunting it’s prey  Flinching at loud noises  Sleeping  A spider building a web  A bear hibernating in winter  A turtle burying it’s eggs  Birds flying south for winter | **Learned Behaviors**  Speaking a second language  Eating with chopsticks  Doing cartwheels  Reading  Tying shoelaces  Writing  A dog rolling over on command  A dog fetching a ball and bringing it back |