

Big Lab

Post-Visit Activity Traits

In the Big Lab, you were able to observe ladybugs. You may have noticed that the ladybugs looked very different from one another, even though they were the same type of insect. In this activity, you will investigate the differences between you and the other students in your class.

This activity should be done as a class.

Materials (per student)

For Recording Data

- Traits worksheet
- Pencil/ pen

Traits are characteristics that we inherit from our parents. For example, having brown eyes is a trait that you inherited from one, or both, of your parents. One of the ladybugs' traits was the number of spots. Each ladybug had spots that looked different, but they were still all ladybugs. Everyone has different traits, which makes us all unique.

Some traits are more common than others. These traits are called **dominant** traits. Brown eyes is a dominant trait. The less common traits are **recessive** traits. Blue eyes is a recessive trait. If one of your parents has brown eyes and the other one has blue, there is a greater chance that you will have brown eyes. As you fill out the chart, can you guess which traits are dominant and which are recessive?

Steps

1. Find a partner to work with.
2. You will fill out their traits, and they will record yours.
3. Complete the traits worksheet.

For the teacher:

4. As a class, record how many students have each of the traits.
5. Have students guess which ones may be dominant and which are recessive.

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What are my traits?

Trait	I have this trait	My partner has this trait
Rolling my tongue in a U-shape		
Widow's Peak (Hairline makes a V-shape)		
Hitchhiker Thumb (Thumb bends back at the joint)		
Attached Earlobes (earlobes don't hang away from head)		
Have Dimples		
Cross my hands with the Right Thumb on top		