

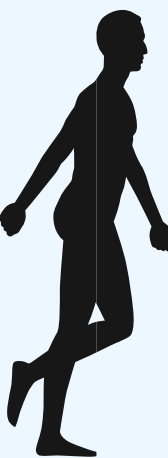
Evolution and Inheritance

Learning Objective:

To recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.



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next

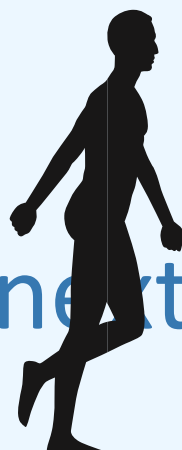
What is
'inheritance'?

What does it
mean if you inherit
something?



Discuss your ideas.

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In science, *inheritance* has a special meaning:

Inheritance is the name for the passing of traits, or **characteristics**, from parents to offspring.



This foal has inherited a very distinctive characteristic from its mother. Can you see what it is?



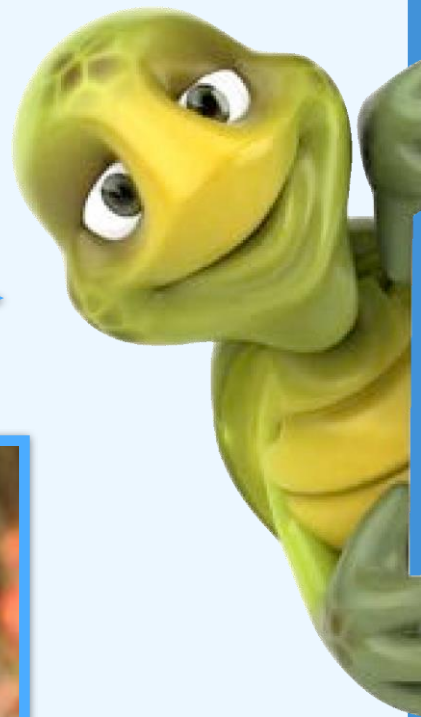
Did you see it?



The foal has **inherited** a distinctive white facial marking from its mother.



Which traits, or characteristics, do you think the child has inherited from his father?



Discuss your ideas.

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Did you think of any of these?

hair colour

eye colour

build

nose shape

mouth
shape

knobbly
knees

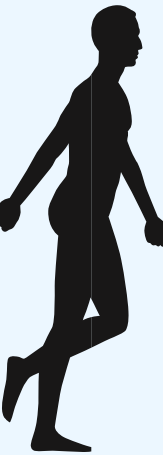
Some inherited characteristics are weird!
rolling your tongue



back

next

second toe longer than big toe earlobe
joined to side of head
All of these are inherited characteristics.



back

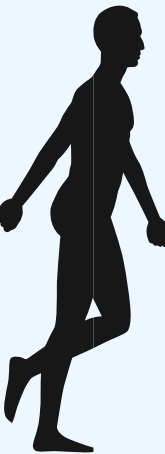
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What does
variation mean?

Discuss your
ideas.



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When we are
talking about
inheritance, the



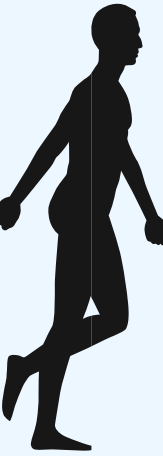
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word variation has a special meaning:

Variation occurs in a species from generation to generation. Although an offspring will have some similar characteristics to its parents, it will also have many different characteristics. This is called **variation**.



This is a normal process
that occurs in the life cycles of all
plants and animals.





Corn from the same parent plant can have very different colours.

Sheep with white wool may occasionally produce offspring with black wool.

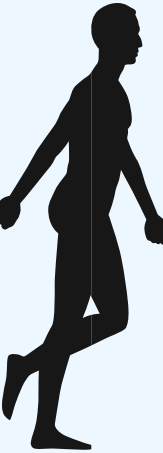


Occasionally, parents produce offspring with *albinism*, a disorder which is recognisable due to the lack of pigment in the skin.



Here are just a few ways in which offspring may vary from their parents:

Other variations are less visible. For example, offspring may have greater resistance to a disease than their parents.



Variation can be clearly seen when plants and animals cross-breed.

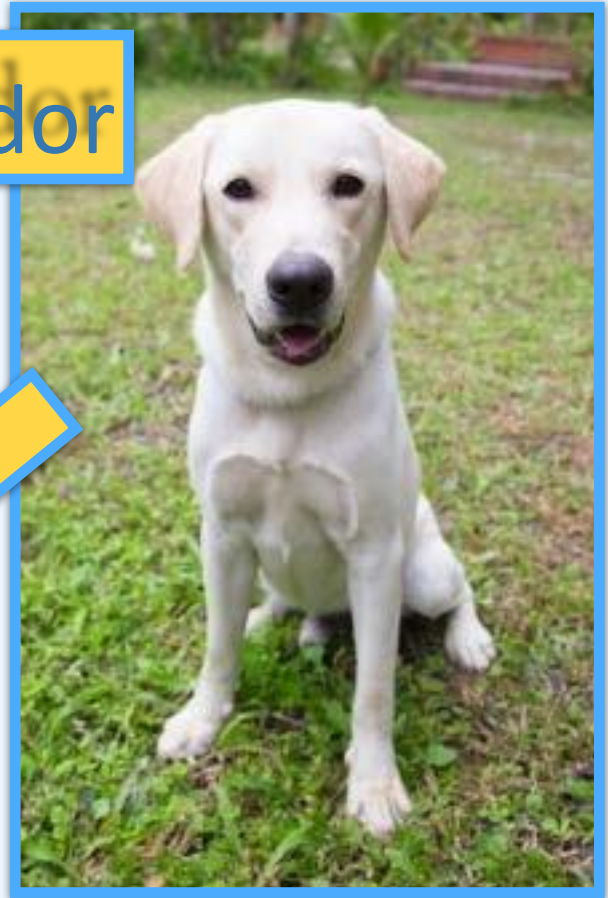


[back](#)

[next](#)



poodle



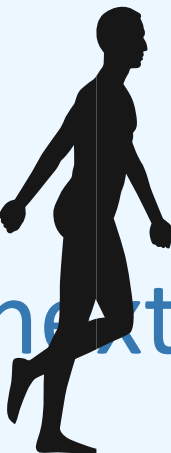
labrador



labradoodle



Which characteristics has the offspring inherited from its parents?



next

Variation can be clearly seen when plants and animals cross-breed.





zebra



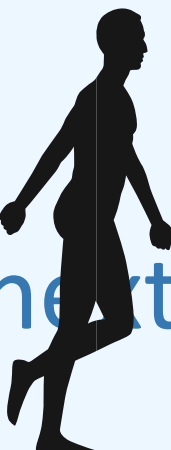
donkey



zonkey



Which characteristics has the offspring inherited from its parents?



Today we will be looking closely at the characteristics that offspring inherit from their parents as well as how they vary from their parents.



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