

# Heredity

## Contents

<i>Preview the Book</i> .....	2
<b>What Is Heredity?</b> .....	3
Heredity and Traits .....	4
The Environment and Traits .....	5
<i>Sequence</i> .....	6
<b>How Are Traits Inherited?</b> .....	7
Genes .....	8
Passing On Genes by Reproducing .....	10
Cell Division .....	12
<i>How to Read Diagrams</i> .....	14
<b>What Are Variations?</b> .....	15
Variations .....	16
Dominant and Recessive Traits .....	17
Crossbreeding and Hybrids .....	19
<i>Main Idea and Details</i> .....	20
<b>How Do Traits Help Organisms Survive?</b> ....	21
Adaptations .....	22
How Species Change .....	23
<b>Glossary</b> .....	24



# 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)**

