

WHAT ARE **TRAITS?**



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Words in **bold** are in the glossary.

A TRAIT INVESTIGATION

Look in the mirror. What do you see? Notice the color of your eyes, hair, and skin. Look at the shape of your nose and ears. You probably look like your family members. But there are differences too.

Each detail about you is called a trait. Animals and plants have traits too. Traits describe how living things look. They also describe how living things act, or behave.



Let's do an investigation to learn more about traits. Look at each dog on page 7. Notice the color of its fur. Does it have pointy ears or floppy ears? What about the shape of its nose? List as many traits as you can.

Now compare the dogs. Pick two. Write a list of ways they are similar. Next, write some ways they are different.



The puppies are brothers and sisters. They all have the same parents. But they look different from each other.

Choose one of the puppies. Look at the parents. How is the puppy like its mother? How is it like its father? How is it like each of its siblings?

Draw another puppy. Make it look different from its siblings. But give it traits in common with its mother and father.



father



mother