



# Third Grade Science

## Inheritance and Variation of Traits

Dear Families,

Here is what your child is learning in Third Grade during the study of inheritance and variation of traits and some specific ways you can help. Look for additional newsletters for upcoming units.

### Inheritance and Variation of Traits

Students will be able to:

- Identify that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all share the process of birth, growth, reproduction, and death.
- Identify and explain that plants and animals have traits that are inherited from parents and a variation of these traits exists in a group of similar organisms.
- Identify that traits can be influenced by the environment and variations in characteristics among individuals of the same species may provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing.

### Key Vocabulary

Metamorphosis- change of form

Simple Metamorphosis- egg – nymph – adult

Complete Metamorphosis – egg – larva – pupa – adult

Traits – qualities or features or other things that distinguish the organism

Acquired Traits – traits that cannot be passed on genetically, acquired characteristics over time

Inherited Traits – passed on genetically, must come from parents or grandparents

### Discovery Education Links:

Insect Life Cycles: [Insect Life Cycles: Metamorphosis](#)

Heredity and Traits: [Heredity and Traits](#)

Inherited Traits: [Inherited Trait](#)

Acquired Traits: [Acquired Traits](#)

How Plants Adapt: [How Plants Adapt](#)

### Ways FAMILIES Can Help

- Use the Discovery Education links to learn more information.
- Be attentive to the plants and animals around you.
- Discuss with your parents' different traits that you have inherited from them (hair color, eye color, height etc.)
- Look for different ways plants and animals adapt to their environment.