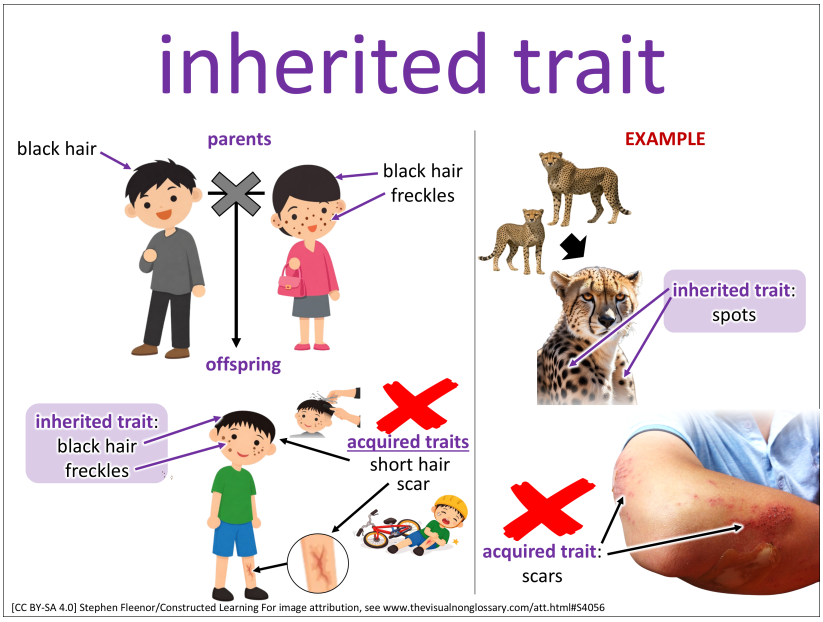
The Visual Non-Glossary™

Traits We Carry and Traits We Gain

The purpose for reading is to understand how to tell if a trait is inherited or acquired.

Look Out For:

- Traits that are passed from parent to offspring
- Examples of inherited trait in humans and animals
- Clues that help you tell if a trait is inherited or acquired



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All living things have physical traits, or characteristics. Some traits are **inherited traits**. These are passed from a **parent** to their **offspring**. For example, a child may have the same hair color or freckles as their parent. Animals also have **inherited traits**. A cheetah gets its spots from its **parent**. A zebra gets its stripes from its **parent**.

Other traits are called **acquired traits**. An **acquired trait** develops over time through interactions with the environment. A person might get a scar or tan skin. Animals can also have **acquired traits**. A dog might get a scar, or an animal may have worn teeth. These traits happen during life and are not passed from a **parent** to an **offspring**.

If a trait comes from a **parent**, it is inherited. If it happens during life, it is acquired. We can compare traits to understand where they come from.

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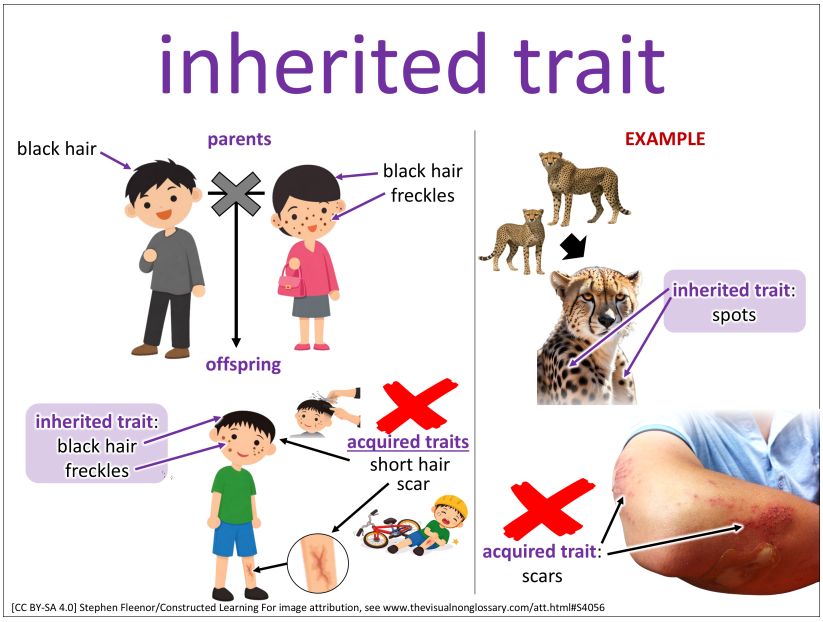
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All living things have physical traits, or characteristics, that make them unique. Some of these traits are **inherited traits**, which means they are passed from a **parent** to their **offspring**. For example, a child may have the same eye color, hair color, or freckles as their parent. These traits are present at birth and come from the family. Animals also show this pattern. A cheetah's spots are an **inherited trait** that young cheetahs receive from their parents. A giraffe's long neck, a zebra's stripes, and a duck's webbed feet are also **inherited traits** passed from **parent** to **offspring**.

Other traits are called **acquired traits**. An **acquired trait** develops over the course of an **organism's** life through interactions with its **environment**. For example, a person might get a scar from falling or have tanned skin from the sun. Animals can also have **acquired traits**. A dog might have a scar from an injury, or a wild animal may have worn or broken teeth from the food it eats. These physical traits are not present at birth and are not passed from a **parent** to an **offspring**.

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Understanding the difference between an **inherited trait** and an **acquired trait** helps us explain where traits come from. If a trait is seen in both a **parent** and their **offspring**, it may be inherited. If it develops during life, it is likely acquired through the environment.

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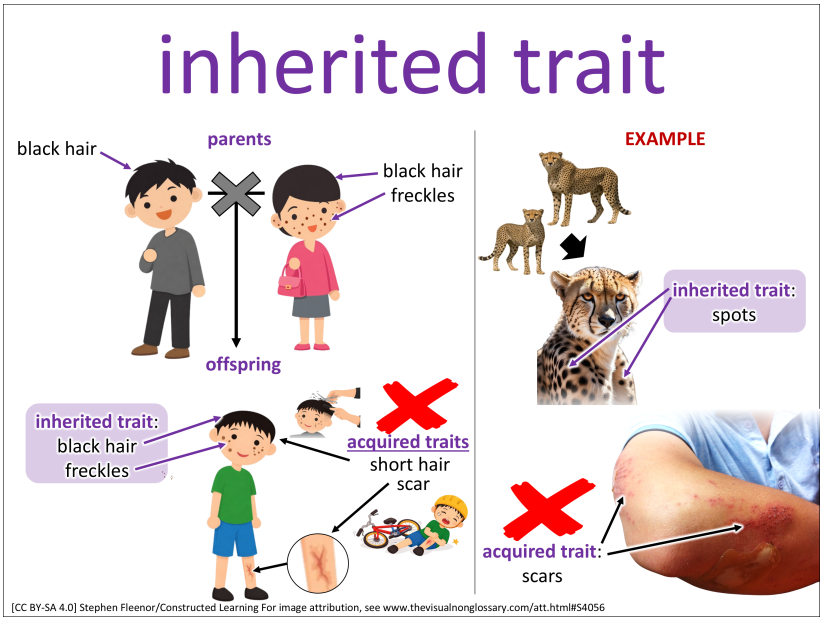
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All organisms have physical traits, or characteristics, that help define how they look and function. Some of these traits are **inherited trait**, meaning they are passed from a **parent** to their **offspring**. These traits are present at birth and are determined by information received from the parent. For example, a child may inherit eye color, hair color, or freckles. Animals also inherit physical traits. A cheetah inherits its spots, a giraffe inherits its long neck, and a zebra inherits its stripes from its **parent**.

In contrast, **acquired trait** develop over time through interactions with the environment. An **acquired trait** develops over the course of an organism's life through interactions with its environment. For example, a person may develop a scar or experience changes like tanned skin. Animals can also develop **acquired trait**, such as scars from injury or worn teeth from eating certain types of food. These traits are not present at birth and are not passed from a **parent** to an **offspring**.

By comparing traits, we can determine their origin. If a trait appears in both a **parent** and their **offspring**, it is likely **inherited**. If it forms as a result of interactions

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with the **environment** during life, it is considered **acquired**. This comparison helps scientists and students understand how traits are developed.

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