

Genetic Traits Class Poll

Biology

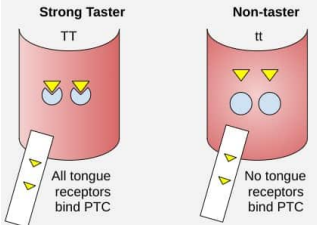
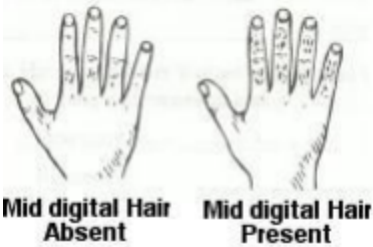
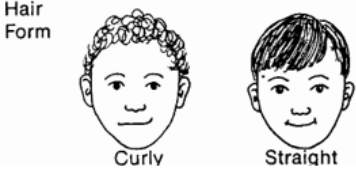
Objectives:

- Poll your classmates to determine the frequency of certain genetic traits.
- Determine which traits are common and which are rare.
- Discuss the role of genetics in determining how common certain traits are.

Procedures and Observations:

A **trait** is a specific condition for a category of something that all organisms of a certain species share (a **character**). For example, "hair color" is a character; traits include blond, brown, and red hair. Use the pictures below to determine the traits of your classmates for all of the characters (make a data table and tally your results). Then, answer the questions to think about WHY certain traits are more common.

Trait 1: Earlobe attachment	  Free Attached
Trait 2: Hairline/widow's peak	  Widow's Peak Peak No Peak
Trait 3: Tongue rolling	  Tongue Rolling Rolled Not Rolled
Trait 4: Tongue Folding	  Tongue Folding Folded Not Folded
Trait 5: Pinkie bending	  Bent Pinkie Straight Pinkie

Trait 6: PTC taste	
Trait 7: Mid digital hair	
Trait 8: Hair form	
Trait 9: Eyelash length	

Questions:

1. Determine the percentage of students in your class that have each trait listed in the table. Which traits were most common? Which were the least common?
2. What do you think determines whether a person has a particular trait?
3. Consider what you know about genetics: what role do you think genetics might have in determining the frequency of a trait?