

Evolution and Genetics:

Understand how Organisms Compare to their Parents

Before Reading: Why do you think organisms look similar to their parents and grandparents?

During Reading:

1. What were some common misconceptions about how people inherited traits from their parents before Gregor Mendel made his discoveries?

2. What is the meaning of the word *trait* as used in “Lesson 1: How it All Began”?

3. Why did Gregor Mendel stop using mice for his experiments?

4. Explain the difference between *blended traits* and *inherited traits that are passed on*.

5. How are traits passed from parent to child?

6. Define *dominant* traits.

7. Define *recessive* traits.

8. What is the difference between **phenotype** and **genotype**? Make up a way for you to remember the difference and explain/show that here:

9. What is a Punnett Square? Why did Mendel create this graphic organizer?

10. What was one of Mendel's greatest discoveries?

11. Define *allele*.

12. Which of the facts provided in "Did you know?" do you find the most interesting? (Explain why!)