

**Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
FIFTH GRADE**

Title of Lesson: Genetics

Theme: Life Science

Unit Number: **Unit Title:** Genes and Inherited Traits

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter codes):

S5L2

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

Content (key terms and topics covered):

Genes, inherited traits, how are genes inherited, background of DNA, function of gene, offspring, generation, learned behavior

Learning Activity (Description in Steps)

Abstract (limit 100 characters): What genes are and how they are passed to offspring. Hands and Crafts activity

Details: •I used powerpoint to do this lesson. I started with the opening, and then described what a gene was and tried to provide some examples to the class. Then I did the work session and ended with the closing. In the work session I started like this: A scientist at the University of Georgia has discovered a new organism. He doesn't know what it looks like but does know some of the genes it contains. **Your Job:** To design the organism based on what the scientist thinks the DNA looks like. Then I provided a table with a list of genes and what each gene codes for. For example, gene A coded for 2 hands. Then I gave each pair of students a genetic code which consisted of 5 to 7 letters (genes). Their job was to follow the code and build the organism. After each group built the organism, I asked each group to show and explain how their organism completed each part of the code.

Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):

Scissors, construction paper, yarn(hair), markers, colored pencils, glue, plastic eyes and other things could be added depending on the table you make.

Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):

This lesson could take more can one class period.

Sources/References:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)