

Learned Behaviors & Experiences

Resemblance Brook with Kinling

Learning target

Distinguish inherited characteristics from learned behaviors in clear examples.

Before you begin

Use the reference page and discussion prompts on their own, or open the optional browser adventure. No earlier lesson or physical kit is required.

For online play: use an internet-connected current browser with local storage enabled. Read the three-part Gemling briefing, answer the quick check, and apply the evidence at three checkpoints. Retry feedback supports review; results are not a secure test or gradebook.

Use for teacher-led review, science centers or partner practice. Independent readers may need support with the vocabulary below. The design target is grades 3-5; choose support based on the learner.

Vocabulary and concepts to discuss

Inherited traits; learned behaviors; practice; experience



Open Resemblance Brook - direct lesson link

Scan the QR code or use the clickable link. This guide is usable offline; the adventure runs on an external educational website.



Learned Behaviors & Experiences - key ideas

1. The first clues

Some behaviors improve through experience and practice. Learning a route through a training maze is different from inheriting a body feature.

2. How the clues connect

An offspring does not automatically inherit a parent's practiced maze route. Inherited features can still affect learning, and many behaviors involve several influences.

3. Our evidence record

Our fictional animal improves its route after repeated trials. The evidence supports learning through experience, not a claim that its new route was passed to an unborn offspring.

Keep the science accurate

Use plants and fictional animal records, not sensitive student family comparisons. No Punnett squares, simple eye-color inheritance rules or genetic determinism.

Apply the evidence

Use a specific observation from this lesson to explain one choice. Point to a clue, then connect that clue to a scientific idea.

Curriculum reference: <https://www.nextgenscience.org/dci-arrangement/3-Is3-heredity-inheritance-and-variation-traits>

Talk through the evidence

1. What explains improvement across practice trials?

Expected answer: Learning from experience

Reasoning: Some behaviors improve through experience and practice. Learning a route through a training maze is different from inheriting a body feature.

2. Which example is a body trait?

Expected answer: Fur pattern

Reasoning: Some behaviors improve through experience and practice. Learning a route through a training maze is different from inheriting a body feature.

3. Does a practiced route automatically pass to offspring?

Expected answer: No

Reasoning: An offspring does not automatically inherit a parent's practiced maze route. Inherited features can still affect learning, and many behaviors involve several influences.

4. Which claim matches the record?

Expected answer: Experience changed the observed performance

Reasoning: Some behaviors improve through experience and practice. Learning a route through a training maze is different from inheriting a body feature.

Guide the discussion

Ask learners to name the evidence that supports their answer. If an answer differs, revisit the matching key idea on page 2 and invite a revised explanation.

Online rewards: this lesson grants one fixed digital Expedition Discovery. Five saved digital Gemling friends become available only after all six distinct subject lessons are complete, in any order. Digital rewards do not establish physical ownership.