

FAMILY PORTRAITS

K-4TH GRADE

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INTRODUCTION

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Welcome to Family Portraits Interactive Workbook!

Through this workbook, you will learn more about your family and facial features. As a young scientist, you will also learn about how you and your parents look alike. From your hair to your tongue, you look like you do because of how your parents look.

The Family Portrait Interactive Workbook will allow you to make a picture of your mom, your dad, and yourself in a fun and simple way. Be sure to look at all of your face drawing options at the bottom of each page before you begin.

At the end of this workbook, you will know why you look the way you do.

Enjoy!

BRIEF BACKGROUND

Many physical characteristics, including facial features, are a result of heredity—the process of passing on physical traits from one generation to the next. For example, you may notice that you look a bit like your mom or your dad. In this exercise, you will take a look at four facial characteristics that you have and compare them with your parents. You will examine your earlobe, your nose shape, your hair, and your tongue to see if you have similarities with those of your parents.

Several things affect how the different parts of your face are formed. A lot has to do with the genes that you inherit from your parents. Genes are found in the cells of your body. They contain instructions that control how your body develops. Genes are made up of DNA, which is often called the “blueprint” of all living things. Think of DNA as the letters and words that make up the instructions found in genes.

Your genes are a combination of your mother’s and father’s genes. You may wonder why you look like your dad in some ways, and like your mom in others. This is because genes can behave differently. You inherit a pair of each gene—one from your mom and one from your dad. “Dominant” genes are likely to produce a particular characteristic, while “Recessive” genes might not. Also, some genes are inherited in a co-dominant way, where your features are a mix, or in between, your parents’ features. Some things in the environment may also affect how your features develop.

This activity just introduces you to some of the inherited traits you can easily observe. Have fun discovering the features you share with your parents—and take it further by comparing your features with those of your brothers and sisters!

FACIAL FEATURES

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GUIDE TO FACIAL FEATURES

EAR LOBES



HAIR



TONGUE ROLLING



INSTRUCTIONS

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INTERACTIVE INSTRUCTIONS

1 On the next page, you will find a blank portrait of your mom. Use the menu of facial features at the bottom to make her face and hair. To choose her ear shape, click on one of the two ear shapes, and ears will appear on the face. You can do this for her nose shape, hair type, and her ability to roll her tongue. Pick the features that match her features the best. If you change your mind, click on another feature option instead and it will instantly replace the first choice.

2 On the page after your mom's portrait, you will find a blank portrait of your dad. Add your dad's facial features in the same way you added your mom's.

3 Following your dad's portrait, you will make your self portrait. You will pick your portrait by clicking on "Boy" if you are a boy and "Girl" if you are a girl. By clicking on one of these words, you will go to a blank portrait of yourself. Add your facial features in the same way you added your mom's and dad's.

INTERACTIVE

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Now it's time to do you!
If you are a boy, click on the word boy.
If you are a girl, click on the word girl.

COMPLETION

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CONGRATULATIONS!

Now that you've depicted your parents and yourself, let's see how your face compares to your parents' faces. Print out the pages containing you and your parents' faces. Note which of your facial features match theirs. Your facial features will match some of your dad's features and some of your mom's features. This is because of inheritance!

EXIT

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Thank you! We hope that you have found this to be a helpful tool. Let us know what you think at : contact@dnacenter.com