

# Inheritance and Variation

Post-Visit Lesson Plan

**SEA LIFE**  
EDUCATION



# Objectives

- **To identify inherited characteristics in living things**
- **To understand that variation occurs within off spring as well as across a species**
- **To understand the difference between inherited and environmental characteristics**

# Outcomes

**A completed Inheritance Profile; a list of inherited and environmental characteristics.**

**Think back to your visit  
to SEA LIFE.**

**What did you learn?**

**What did you most enjoy  
about your visit?**



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**In pairs, look at the photos of your parents. Discuss which characteristics you have inherited from your parents.**

**A characteristic is a feature of any organism. It can either be 'seen' (like the colour of your hair) or 'hidden' (like your blood group).**

**Do you share any characteristics with your siblings, or do they look different to you? Start by thinking about the following categories:**

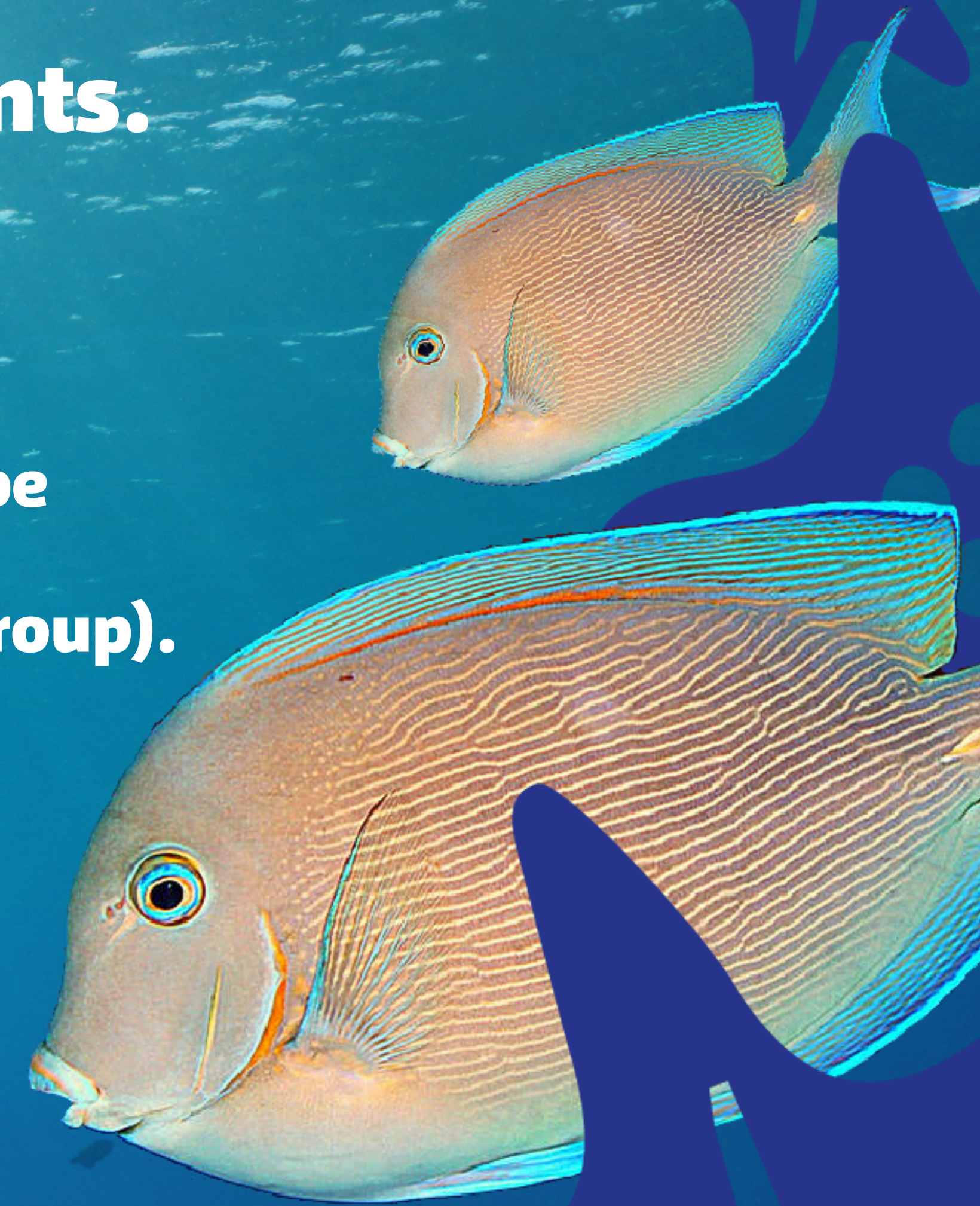
**Eye colour**

**Hair colour**

**Face shape**

**Ear lobes**

**If you don't have a sibling, think about a friend of yours who has. Then share your findings with the class.**



**Fill in the Inheritance Profile below by inserting images and notes to show the things you and any of your siblings have inherited from your parents.**

**Parent  
no. 1**

**Parent  
no. 2**

**Offspring  
no. 1**

**Offspring  
no. 2**

**Inherited**

**Inherited**

# What are the differences or variations between you and your siblings?

Some characteristics are 'inherited' (come from our parents) through our genes (e.g. eye colour and whether or not we have prominent ear lobes).

While other characteristics come from the life choices we make and how we live - things like where we live, what we eat and how much exercise we take. These are called 'environmental characteristics'.

**Sort the cards below into 'inherited characteristics' and 'environmental characteristics'.**

<b>Eye colour</b>	<b>Tanned skin from the sun</b>
<b>Shape of nose</b>	<b>Height</b>
<b>Language</b>	<b>General health</b>
<b>Migraines</b>	<b>Weight</b>
<b>Blood group</b>	<b>Sporting ability</b>
<b>Tongue rolling</b>	<b>Intelligence</b>
<b>Hair colour</b>	<b>Skin colour</b>

EXTENSION: Which characteristics could be considered a combination of both inherited and environmental characteristics?

**Choose a creature that you looked at in your SEA LIFE workshop.**

**Carry out some research into the inherited and environmental characteristics of your chosen creature.**

