SORT ACTIVITY

INHERITED VS. LEARNED TRAITS

GRADE 3



Sort Inherited Traits and Learned Behaviors

Name:

Have you ever wondered why a baby duck knows how to swim right away, but a dog has to be taught to sit? Animals can do some things from the moment they are born. Other things they learn by watching, practicing, or being taught. Scientists call these two ideas **inherited traits** and **learned behaviors**.

Inherited traits are things [illegible] born with. [illegible] For [illegible]

Sometimes, inherited traits and learned behaviors work together. For example, birds are born with the instinct to migrate when seasons change. But if a bird flies with a new group, it may learn a different route to its destination. The instinct to travel is inherited, but the exact path can be learned.

Another example is a baby sea turtle. It is born knowing to move toward the ocean, which is an inherited instinct. But once it is in the water, the turtle has to learn where to find food and how to avoid predators. Its first movement toward the ocean is inherited, but finding safe places in the sea is learned over time.

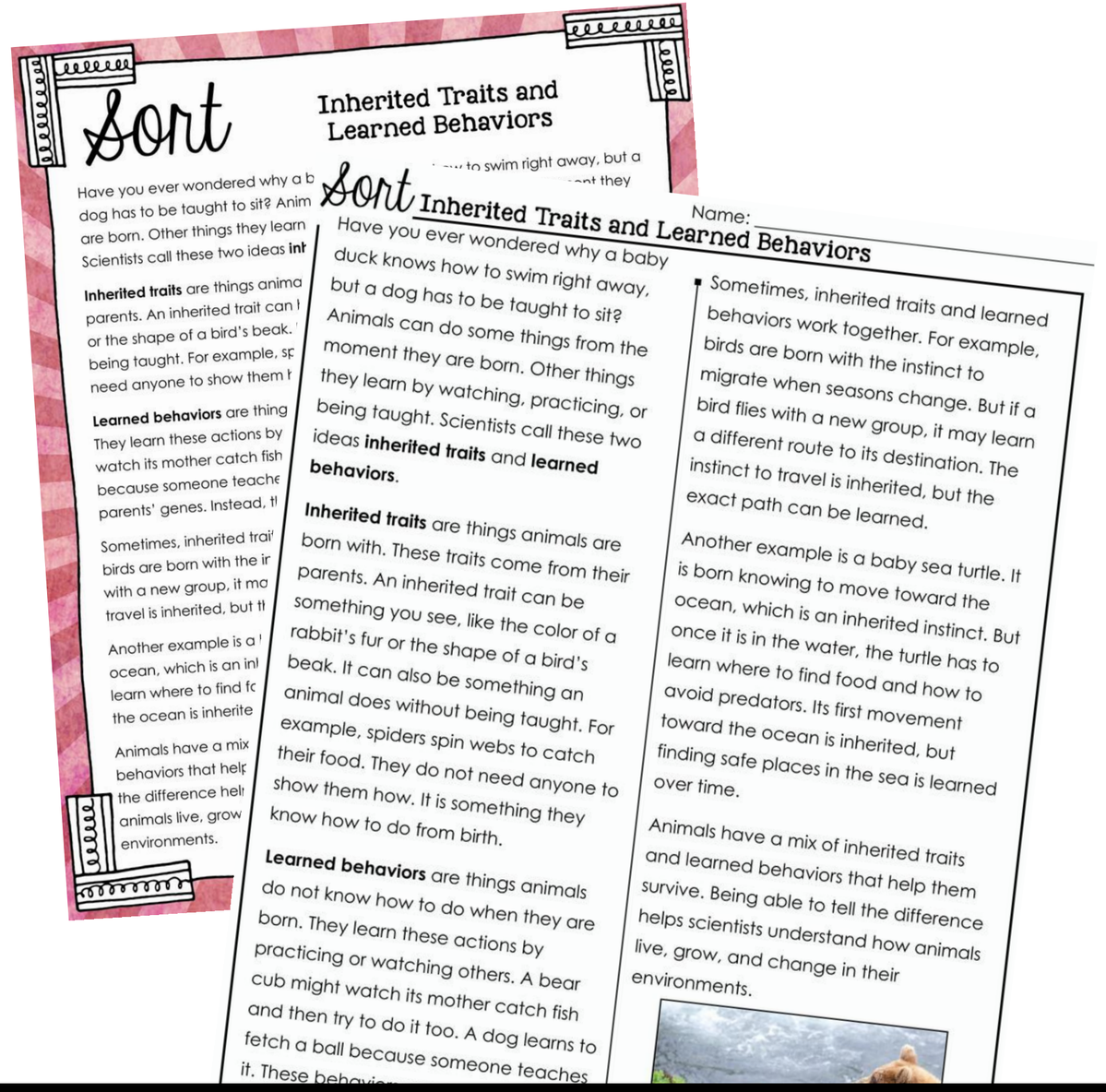
Animals have a mix of inherited traits and learned behaviors that help them survive. Being able to tell the difference helps scientists understand how animals live, grow, and change in their environments.

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Perfect for 3rd Grade Science Centers and NGSS 3-LS3 Standards

Includes reading passage, sorting cards, cut-and-paste worksheet, and comprehension questions!

WHAT'S INCLUDED


Sort

Inherited Traits and Learned Behaviors

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dog has to be taught to sit? Anim
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Sort

Name: _____

Inherited Traits and Learned Behaviors

Have you ever wondered why a baby duck knows how to swim right away, but a dog has to be taught to sit? Animals can do some things from the moment they are born. Other things they learn by watching, practicing, or being taught. Scientists call these two ideas **inherited traits** and **learned behaviors**.

Inherited traits are things animals are born with. These traits come from their parents. An inherited trait can be something you see, like the color of a rabbit's fur or the shape of a bird's beak. It can also be something an animal does without being taught. For example, spiders spin webs to catch their food. They do not need anyone to show them how. It is something they know how to do from birth.

Learned behaviors are things animals do not know how to do when they are born. They learn these actions by practicing or watching others. A bear cub might watch its mother catch fish and then try to do it too. A dog learns to fetch a ball because someone teaches it. These behavior

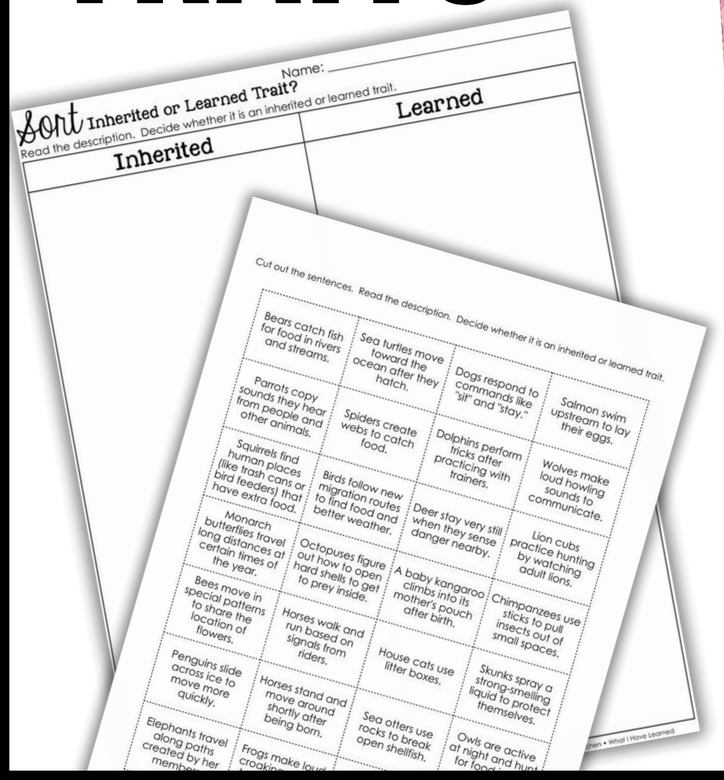
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Another example is a baby sea turtle. It is born knowing to move toward the ocean, which is an inherited instinct. But once it is in the water, the turtle has to learn where to find food and how to avoid predators. Its first movement toward the ocean is inherited, but finding safe places in the sea is learned over time.

Animals have a mix of inherited traits and learned behaviors that help them survive. Being able to tell the difference helps scientists understand how animals live, grow, and change in their environments.

- Reading Passage about inherited traits and learned behaviors
- Student Sorting Cards (large cards)
- Cut-and-Paste Sorting Worksheet
- Short Answer Comprehension Questions
- Multiple Choice Questions
- Answer Keys for All Activities

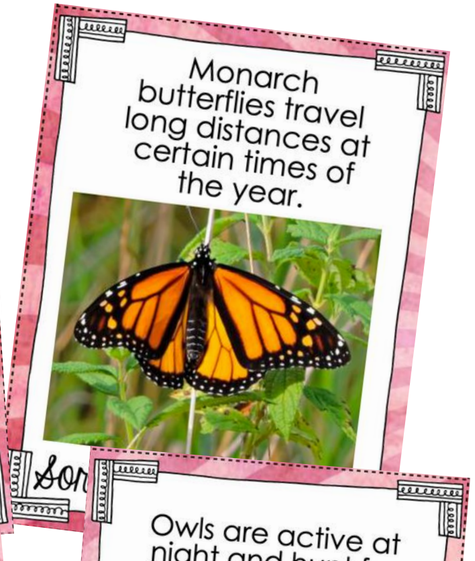
SORT ANIMAL TRAITS

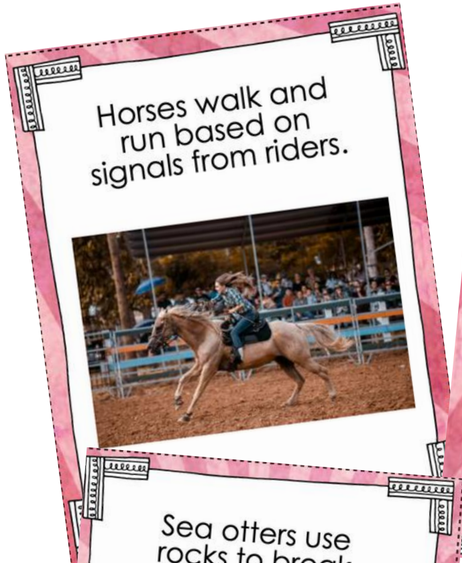




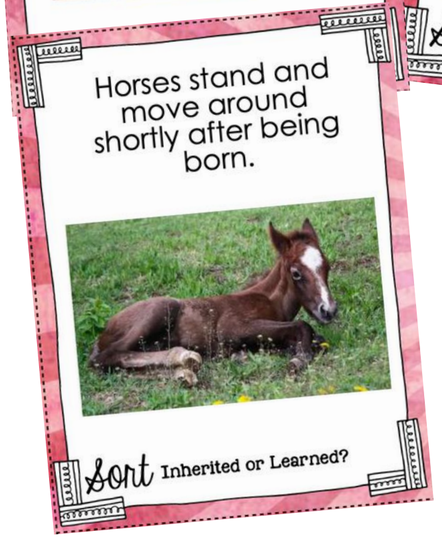










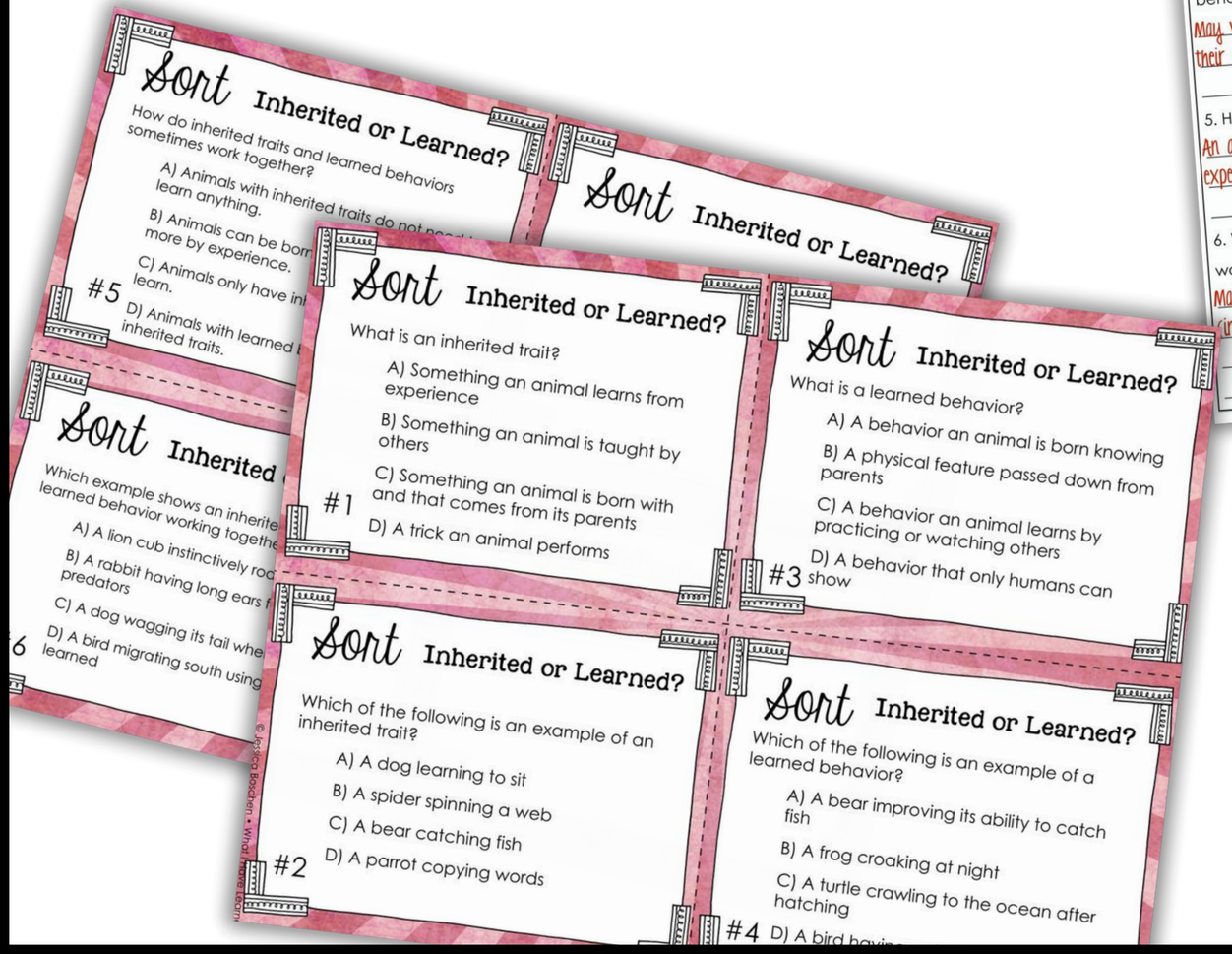


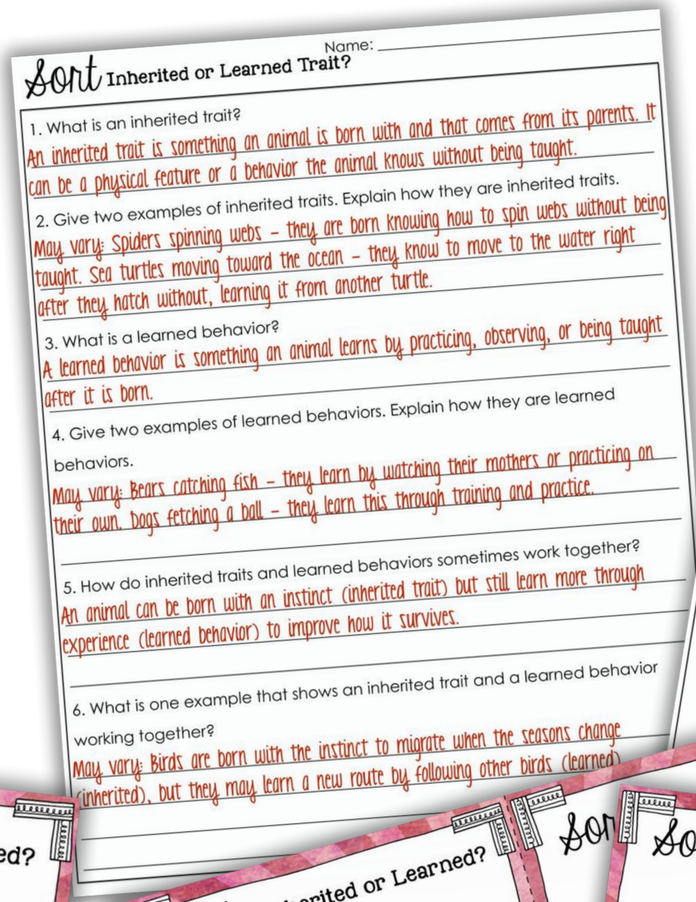




27 CARDS

DIFFERENTIATED COMPREHENSION




Sort Inherited or Learned Trait?

Name:

1. What is an inherited trait?

An inherited trait is something an animal is born with and that comes from its parents. It can be a physical feature or a behavior the animal knows without being taught.

2. Give two examples of inherited traits. Explain how they are inherited traits.

May vary: Spiders spinning webs – they are born knowing how to spin webs without being taught. Sea turtles moving toward the ocean – they know to move to the water right after they hatch without, learning it from another turtle.

3. What is a learned behavior?

A learned behavior is something an animal learns by practicing, observing, or being taught after it is born.

4. Give two examples of learned behaviors. Explain how they are learned behaviors.

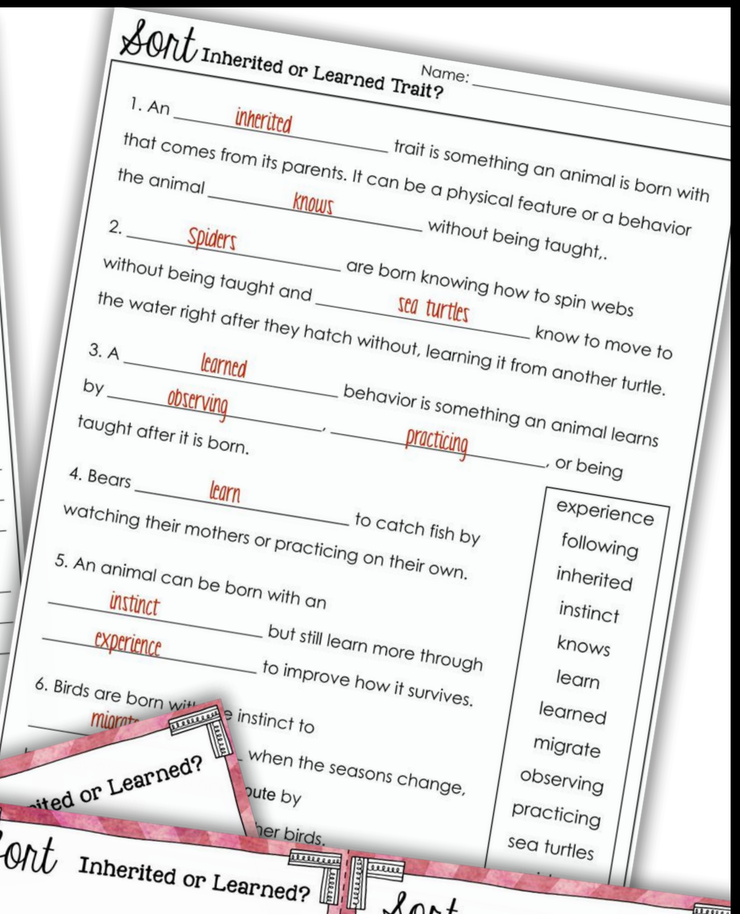
May vary: Bears catching fish – they learn by watching their mothers or practicing on their own. Dogs fetching a ball – they learn this through training and practice.

5. How do inherited traits and learned behaviors sometimes work together?

An animal can be born with an instinct (inherited trait) but still learn more through experience (learned behavior) to improve how it survives.

6. What is one example that shows an inherited trait and a learned behavior working together?

May vary: Birds are born with the instinct to migrate when the seasons change (inherited), but they may learn a new route by following other birds (learned)


Sort Inherited or Learned Trait?

Name:

1. An inherited trait is something an animal is born with that comes from its parents. It can be a physical feature or a behavior the animal knows without being taught,.

2. Spiders are born knowing how to spin webs without being taught and sea turtles know to move to the water right after they hatch without, learning it from another turtle.

3. A learned behavior is something an animal learns by observing, practicing, or being taught after it is born.

4. Bears learn to catch fish by watching their mothers or practicing on their own.

5. An animal can be born with an instinct but still learn more through experience to improve how it survives.

6. Birds are born wi… instinct to migrat… when the seasons change, …ute by …her birds.

experience
following
inherited
instinct
knows
learn
learned
migrate
observing
practicing
sea turtles



My passion is making learning accessible to all students.
I love scaffolding learning, breaking down the concepts and building them up so that students can see the connections.
I love figuring out the small components that build up to the big ideas and helping students see it all.



teach MATH

teach SCIENCE

teach READING

teach WRITING

What I have LEARNED