

By comparing generations of families of humans, plants and animals, I can begin to understand how characteristics are inherited.

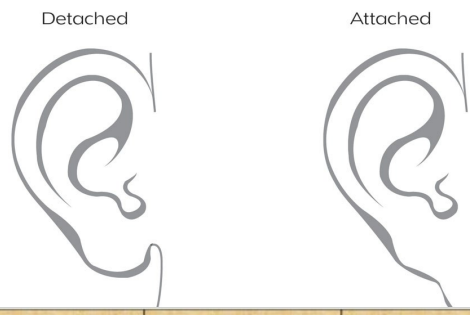
By exploring the characteristics offspring inherit when living things reproduce, I can distinguish between inherited and non-inherited characteristics.

Characteristic—A noticeable or distinguishing quality of someone or something.

We all have characteristics - some are similar and some are different.

I have brown hair and green eyes. Do you have these characteristics?

List all the similarities and differences you share with people in your house.



We inherit characteristics from our parents.

Eye Colour, hair colour, height are all inherited characteristics. So are the size and shape of your ears and nose!

I have attached ear lobes - do you share this inherited characteristic?


Look closely at family members—which parts of you look similar and which are different... which have you inherited?

Sometimes characteristics skip generations, so we may share some characteristics with grandparents or other relatives.

My brother and sister both have red hair—they inherited this from my mum’s side of the family.

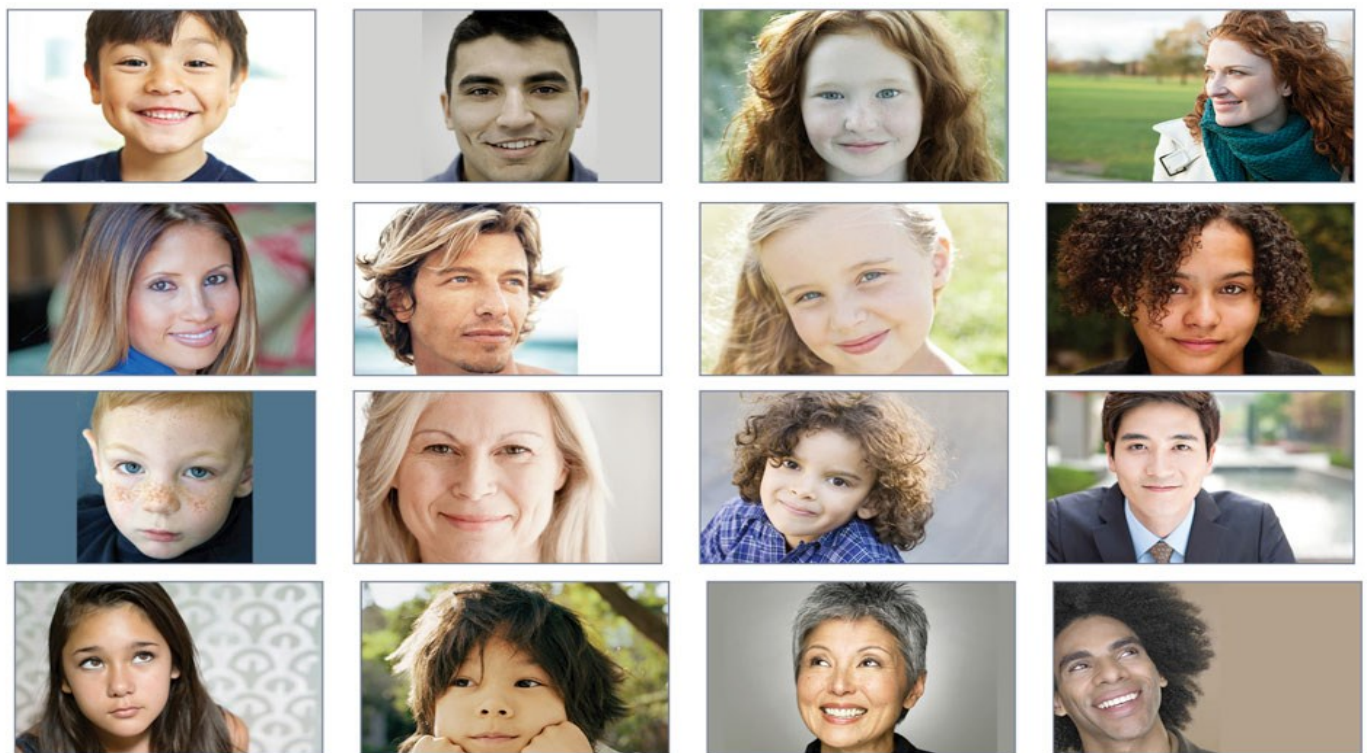
Dig out the family albums. Do you share characteristics with your Auntie Senga? Have you the same nose as your great grandad?

Write a report or make a poster to share what you found out.

Do you have attached or detached earlobes?	Do you cross your right thumb over your left thumb, or your left thumb over your right thumb?	Can you roll your tongue?	Do you have dimples?
Are you right-handed or left-handed?	Do you have freckles? Do you have naturally curly hair?	Do you have a widow’s peak? 	Is your second toe longer than your big toe?



Spot the similar characteristics



Match the people above according to similar characteristics.

Get a family member to do the activity too. Now share your answers—did you agree?

Did you look closely to check for similar and different characteristics?

