

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS**

Read the text and then answer the questions.

What color are your hair and your eyes? What about your skin? How tall are you? Your eye color, hair color, skin color, and height are all attributes of your appearance, or the way you look. Now, think about your friends' appearances. They look different from you. Perhaps their eyes, hair, or skin is a different color from yours. How does that happen, and why do you look the way you look? The answer is because of genes (jeenz), which determine your appearance. Thousands of genes are in each cell of your body. But despite their size, genes are very important. Genes tell your body what color your eyes, hair, and skin will be. They determine your height and explain why everyone looks different. Everyone has his or her own unique set of genes.

**SCORE**

1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

\_\_\_ / 5

**Total**

**1.** What determines the color of a person's eyes?

- (A) skin color
- (B) genes
- (C) a grandparent
- (D) where a person was born

**2.** Which summarizes the text?

- (A) Everyone looks different because of their eye color.
- (B) Genes control our appearance, but they don't really matter.
- (C) Genes control our appearance, and everyone has his or her own unique set of genes.
- (D) Genes are very small; even an ant is larger.

**3.** Which of the following is a homophone of *genes*?

- (A) spleens
- (B) generous
- (C) genius
- (D) jeans

**4.** Based on the context of the text, *determine* means

- (A) to dislike.
- (B) to discuss and decide.
- (C) to like how something will be.
- (D) to control the limits of.

**5.** What is the author's purpose?

- (A) to entertain
- (B) to inform
- (C) to persuade
- (D) to instruct

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4. (Y) (N)

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\_\_\_ / 5

Total

Although genes are extremely small, they have a lot of work to do. In fact, you have thousands of genes. Each gene has its own special job. For example, think about your eyes—are they brown, blue, green, a mixture, or some other color? Maybe they are gray, or maybe they change color with your moods. You have a special gene that controls what color your eyes will be. Another gene controls the color of your skin. You may have light skin or very dark skin. Regardless of your skin color, there is a unique gene that tells your body what color your skin will be. Your genes even tell your body whether you will have freckles! There is a special gene in charge of your height, too. It tells your body how tall you will be when you grow up. Your genes work together to make you look the way you look.

1. Which is not determined by a person's genes?

- (A) eye color
- (B) T-shirt color
- (C) skin color
- (D) hair color

2. Which title best fits this text?

- (A) Telling My Body
- (B) Height
- (C) I Am Tall
- (D) Your Genes and You

3. Which word does not have a long e vowel sound?

- (A) unique
- (B) gene
- (C) example
- (D) maybe

4. Which is another way to say *how tall you are*?

- (A) height
- (B) genes
- (C) eye color
- (D) freckles

5. Which word is possessive?

- (A) each
- (B) job
- (C) its
- (D) gene

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**DIRECTIONS**

Read the text and then answer the questions.

Where do your genes come from, and how do you get them? You get your genes from your parents. Think about your mom's and dad's physical characteristics. Both of your parents have thousands of genes. Your parents passed copies of their genes to you when you were born. Half your genes come from your mother, and the other half come from your father. For example, each parent gives you a gene for eye color. If both parents give you a gene for brown eyes, then you will have brown eyes, too. But imagine your mother gave you a gene for blue eyes and your father gave you a gene for brown eyes. The gene for brown eyes is the dominant gene, so your eyes will be brown. Still, you received one eye-color gene from each parent.

**SCORE**

1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

\_\_\_ / 5

Total

1. Where do a person's genes come from?

- (A) all from the mother  
 (B) half from each parent  
 (C) all from the father  
 (D) half from two grandparents

2. Which index entry would help a reader locate the text?

- (A) brown eyes  
 (B) characters in time  
 (C) your parents  
 (D) genes mixing together

3. Which is the stressed syllable in the word *dominant*?

- (A) the first syllable  
 (B) the second syllable  
 (C) the third syllable  
 (D) none of the above

4. Which is the antonym of *both*?

- (A) some  
 (B) neither  
 (C) one  
 (D) each

5. The term *physical characteristics* means

- (A) how a person looks.  
 (B) what a person thinks.  
 (C) the character of a person.  
 (D) physical items that have character.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## IT'S ALL IN THE GENES

What do you have in common with a pumpkin, a panda, and a basset hound? The answer is genes. Every living thing has genes. The set of genes for each living thing is different. That is why you do not look the same as your friends. It is also why you do not look like a pumpkin, a panda, or a basset hound. Your genes are unique to you. They are in charge of your eye color, your hair color, and your height. They are part of what makes you the person you are.

Pumpkins have genes, too. Pumpkin genes are in charge of the pumpkin's shape and color. They are in charge of the shape of its leaves. There are genes in every pumpkin seed. They tell the seed that it will become a pumpkin. If you plant a pumpkin seed, it will grow into a pumpkin, not an oak tree. That is because the seed has pumpkin genes in it.

What about pandas?

Pandas have genes, too. Those genes tell the panda's body that it will have black and white fur. They also tell the panda's body that it will have black ears and black circles around its eyes. Mother pandas and father pandas have black ears and black circles around their eyes. They have black-and-white fur. They pass those genes to their babies, just as your parents passed their genes to you.



Have you ever seen a basset hound? Basset hounds have long, droopy ears, long bodies, and short legs. They also have an excellent sense of smell. How does a basset hound get those floppy ears, long bodies, and sense of smell? The genes in charge of its body shape make its body long and low to the ground. The basset hound's keen sense of smell comes from genes, too. The basset hound is only one breed of dog with its own special genes. Other breeds of dog have different genes. That is why basset hounds do not look like golden retrievers. Each living thing has its own special genes.

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**DIRECTIONS**

Read "It's All in the Genes" and then answer the questions.

**SCORE**

- 1.** A reader can predict that basset hounds will have
- (A) puppies with very long legs.
  - (B) puppies that do not have floppy ears.
  - (C) puppies that do not have a good sense of smell.
  - (D) puppies that look like their parents.
- 2.** What is the author's purpose?
- (A) to tell how genes make living things different
  - (B) to get you to adopt a basset hound
  - (C) to tell how pumpkins grow
  - (D) to tell you where you can go to see pandas
- 3.** Which statement is true?
- (A) Only some living things have genes.
  - (B) All dogs have the same genes.
  - (C) Each living thing has unique genes.
  - (D) Children have the same genes as their parents.

- 4.** Where do genes come from?
- (A) parents
  - (B) pumpkins
  - (C) pandas
  - (D) basset hounds
- 5.** Which does **not** have genes?
- (A) water
  - (B) dogs
  - (C) whales
  - (D) ladybugs
- 6.** Which is a good summary of this text?
- (A) Pumpkins and pandas do not look the same.
  - (B) All living things have genes, and each has its own special genes.
  - (C) Panda mothers and fathers pass their genes to their babies.
  - (D) Your genes determine your hair color, eye color, and height.

1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

6. (Y) (N)

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**Total**

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Reread “It’s All in the Genes.” Then, read the prompt and respond on the lines below.

Where did you get your eye color? Your hair color? Your skin color? Your height? Do you look more like your father? More like your mother? Write about how your genes determine the way you look.

[illegible]

**SCORE**

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