

Traits: Two Models

Read carefully:

Conceptual models are sets of ideas that explain phenomena. Phenomena are observable things that happen in the world around us.

Think about the phenomena of traits in living things. For example:



Some people have naturally curly hair



Some plants are carnivorous (eat insects)



Some people are great at volleyball



Some plants turn toward sunlight

Two students are sharing their models that explain traits.

Emil: Genes code for proteins. Proteins work with other proteins to make traits. **An organism's traits are made *only* by its genes.**

Keyana: Genes code for proteins. Proteins work with other proteins and environmental factors to make traits. **An organism's traits are made by its genes *and* factors in its environment.**

Answer questions 1 & 2 only

It's ok if you don't give the right answer. After you learn more about traits, you'll think about these questions again.

1. Do you most agree with Emil or with Keyana? _____
2. Explain your thinking, as it relates to at least one of the phenomena above.

STOP HERE

NAME _____ DATE _____

Answer questions 3-5 after you have completed *Traits: Weigh the Evidence*

3. Do you most agree with Emil or with Keyana? _____

4. If you changed your mind, explain why.

5. List one piece of evidence from the Traits module and explain why it supports the model you chose.