Name _____ Date _____

Inherited Traits and Learned Behaviors: A Puppy Named Biscuit

Directions: Read about Ben's puppy. Then answer each question.

Biscuit's Traits

Ben's puppy, Biscuit, has brown eyes and floppy ears like her mother. She can also sit when Ben tells her to. Biscuit was not born knowing how to do that.

A **trait** is a feature of a living thing. Many traits are **inherited**, or passed from parents to their young. Eye color is an inherited trait. Biscuit got her brown eyes from her parents.

A **learned behavior** is an action that a living thing learns by practice or by watching others. Biscuit learned to sit when Ben trained her. Ben learned to ride a bike by practicing.

The **environment** is all the things around a living thing, such as its food, water, and sunlight. The environment can change some traits, too. A puppy that eats too much and runs too little may get heavy. A plant that gets too little water may grow small.

1. Match each word from the puppy passage with what it means.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ trait
2. _____ inherited
3. _____ learned behavior
4. _____ environment

Choices for question 1

A. How a magnet pulls on iron
B. A feature of a living thing, such as the shape of its ears
C. All the things around a living thing, such as food and water
D. Passed from parents to their young
E. An action a living thing learns by practice or by watching others

2. Use the word bank to finish the sentences about two bean plants.

Word bank
practice • environment • learned • inherited

Two bean plants grew from seeds of the same parent plant. One got lots of water. The other got very little. The dry plant grew much smaller. Its size was changed by its _____. Both plants grew leaves of the same shape. That shape is a trait they _____ from their parent plant.

3. Which of these is an inherited trait?

A. A boy riding a bike
B. A baby zebra's stripes
C. A dog sitting when it is told to sit
D. A parrot saying hello

4. Which of these is a learned behavior?

A. A rabbit's long ears
B. A turtle's hard shell
C. A girl reading a chapter book
D. A spider having eight legs

5. Biscuit's sister, Pepper, has the same parents. Pepper gets too much food and few walks. Now she is much heavier than Biscuit. What is the best reason?

A. Pepper's parents are not Biscuit's parents.
B. Pepper learned to be heavy by watching Biscuit.
C. Heavier dogs are always born that way.
D. How much food and how many walks each dog gets

6. Ben says, "Biscuit learned to have brown eyes." Why is Ben wrong?

A. Eye color comes from the food a puppy eats.
B. Only people can have brown eyes.
C. Eye color is inherited from parents, not learned by practice.
D. Biscuit's eyes turned brown when Ben trained her.

7. Which sentence is best supported by the passage?

A. Many traits are inherited, and the environment can change some of them.
B. All traits are learned by practice.
C. Traits never change after a living thing is born.
D. Plants do not have any traits.

8. What would happen if Biscuit had puppies one day?

A. The puppies would get no traits from Biscuit.
B. The puppies would be born knowing to sit when told, because Biscuit learned it.
C. The puppies would not be born knowing to sit when told, so they would need to learn it.
D. The puppies would all weigh the same as Biscuit.