

**Project FOCUS  
Best Lessons  
FIFTH GRADE**

**Title of Lesson:** Genetics

**Theme:** Life Science

**Unit Number:**           **Unit Title:** Genes and Inherited Traits

**Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter codes):**

S5L2

**Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):**

**Habits of Mind**

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

**Content (key terms and topics covered):**

Genes, inherited traits, how are genes inherited, background of DNA, function of gene, offspring, generation, learned behavior

**Learning Activity (Description in Steps)**

**Abstract (limit 100 characters):** What genes are and how they are passed to offspring. Hands and Crafts activity

**Details:** •I used powerpoint to do this lesson. I started with the opening, and then described what a gene was and tried to provide some examples to the class. Then I did the work session and ended with the closing. In the work session I started like this: A scientist at the University of Georgia has discovered a new organism. He doesn't know what it looks like but does know some of the genes it contains. **Your Job:** To design the organism based on what the scientist thinks the DNA looks like. Then I provided a table with a list of genes and what each gene codes for. For example, gene A coded for 2 hands. Then I gave each pair of students a genetic code which consisted of 5 to 7 letters (genes). Their job was to follow the code and build the organism. After each group built the organism, I asked each group to show and explain how their organism completed each part of the code.

**Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):**

**Scissors, construction paper, yarn(hair), markers, colored pencils, glue, plastic eyes and other things could be added depending on the table you make.**

**Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):**

**This lesson could take more can one class period.**

**Sources/References:**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)