

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Humans and Life Unit Pre-Assessment

Directions: Before you begin learning about diversity among organisms, please answer the questions below. Don't worry if you are not an expert on these subjects—just share your best answer!

1. Explain why puppies in the same litter look pretty much alike.

2. What is a *trait*?

3. What does *variation* mean? Give an example of a variation in a trait in a plant and in an animal.

4. What are *genes*? (These are different from the *jeans* you wear!) What do they do?

5. Describe how two biological brothers (same mom and dad) can look so different physically—one is very muscular and athletic and the other is slender and doesn't participate in sports.

6. Predict what might happen to a bird population if most of the insects they feed on are killed by pesticides. Will the bird population die? Change its diet? Change in some other way?

Put a ✓ next to each statement you think is TRUE.

- All oak trees look exactly alike.
- Traits are passed from parents to offspring through reproduction.
- Genes are made of DNA.
- A change in the environment can affect whether or not an organism survives.
- Giraffes have long necks because their necks stretch from constantly reaching high in tree branches for tasty leaves.
- Humans can make positive impacts on the survival of other organisms.
- A tall tree in a forest will get more sunlight than a short tree.