Name Class Date

Skills Worksheet

Active Reading

# Section: Themes of Biology

Read the passage below. Notice that the sentences are numbered. Answer the questions that follow.

## 1 All living things are able to pass on their characteristics

(traits) to their offspring because the genes that determine their characteristics are passed on from parent to offspring each gener- ation. 2 **Genes** are sets of inherited instructions for making pro- teins that are coded in a molecule called deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). 3 The passing of traits from parents to offspring is called **heredity**. 4 Heredity is the reason children tend to resemble their parents. 5 Sometimes damage causes genes to change. 6 A change in the DNA of a gene is called a **mutation**. 7 Mutations in sex cells (eggs and sperm) are passed on to other generations. 8 Mutations in body cells are not, but they may disrupt the control of cell reproduction, producing cancer.

SKILL: READING EFFECTIVELY

Read each question, and write your answer in the space provided.

## Why does the word *traits* appear in parentheses in Sentence 1?

1. The word *genes* appears in boldface type in Sentence 2. What does the use of boldface type indicate?
2. Based on Sentence 3, how would you define the word *heredity*?

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Active Reading *continued*

## SKILL: RECOGNIZING CAUSE AND EFFECT

Read each question, and write your answer in the space provided.

## A cause-and-effect relationship is identified in Sentence 4. What is the effect of heredity?

1. Another cause-and-effect relationship is identified in Sentence 5. What causes genes to change?
2. What relationship is indicated by the parentheses in Sentence 7?
3. Sentence 8 describes two cause-and-effect relationships. What are they?

In the space provided, write the letter of the term or phrase that best completes the statement.

## 8. A change in the DNA of a gene is called a

* 1. cancer.
  2. trait.
  3. mutation.
  4. sex cell.