What is inheritance?

When living things reproduce they **pass on characteristics** to their offspring. This is known as inheritance.

You’ve probably noticed that you might look like your parents. This is because you **inherit** key characteristics from them, like your eye colour, skin colour and height.

All living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring are not identical to their parents; there are variations that make them different.

For example, if you cross two different breeds of dog, you get a dog with a combination of characteristics. Some characteristics come from their mother and some from their father.

However, you don't inherit everything from your parents. For example: things like hairstyle, scars and ear piercings.

Fill in the blanks using the words: identical - variations - inherited – offspring - accent - height

Some characteristics, like eye colour, are **passed from parents to their** ____________. These are called ____________ characteristics.

However, offspring are not ____________ to their parents. There are differences between all of us – these are called ____________.

Some characteristics, like your skin colour and ____________, can be inherited.

Other characteristics like hairstyle and ____________ are not inherited, they come from your environment.