SIXTH GRADE
LESSON V
HEREDITY AND ENVIRONMENT

Objectives
Students will
• Explain the effects of heredity and environment
• Identify the role of feelings and attitudes on behavior

Materials
• Question box

Activities
1. Brainstorm with class and list all human characteristics they can think of - hair color, eyes, gender, language, height, facial characteristics, intelligence, attitudes, skin color, color blindness
2. Define and discuss the labels “inherited” and “acquired”
3. Have students make a chart by folding paper in half and labeling one side “inherited” and the other side “acquired”. Categorize the characteristics for the board list onto the chart.
4. Share and discuss student’s lists
5. Ask students to think about physical and emotional characteristics they inherited from their mother or their father
6. Discuss the concept that characteristics may skip a generation or two and then reappear. Ask students to think about characteristics they may share with a grandparent.
7. Discuss kinds of environmental influences that result in acquired characteristics
8. Exceptional Education Inclusion Activity- Have students bring in pictures of their parents and state the physical characteristics they have in common with each.