

# INVENTORY OF MENDELIAN TRAITS

**Introduction:** Many human traits such are controlled by a complex combination of different genes working together, and so the way they are passed down through generations is not as obvious as some traits that follow the principle of Dominance. However, there are several traits that are thought to be controlled by one gene, and their pattern of inheritance is easier to trace. *'We call these mendelian traits'*

**Instructions:** First, define trait, allele, dominant, and recessive. Then, go through the different traits and circle or highlight the version that you have. Answer the questions at the bottom.

Trait:

Allele:

Dominant:

Recessive:

Traits	Dominant	Recessive
Cleft in chin	Absence	Presence
Crossing of thumbs	Left over right	Right over left
Dimples	Presence	Absence
Earlobes	Definite free earlobes	Attached earlobes
Freckles	Presence	Absence
Hairline	Widow's peak	Straight
Hair color	White hair streak	Normal hair color
Handedness	Right handedness	Left handedness
Hitchhiker's thumbs	Absence	Presence
Nose shape	Roman nose (bump)	Straight
Number of fingers	Six fingers	Five fingers
Toe length	Second toe longer than first toe	First toe longer than second toe
Tongue rolling	Ability to roll tongue	Inability to roll tongue
Webbed fingers	Presence	Absence

**Reflect:** Which traits do you share with your parents? Which traits do you share with your siblings? Which traits do you not share with your siblings?