Name: Date:

Activity 5 – Evolution

Observation 3 - Heredity

One of Charles Darwin's observations was that of heredity. Heredity is when certain features and traits are passed from parents to their children. In humans, this can be physical things such as eye colour, hair colour, face shape and height, and other things such as sporting or artistic ability, or food likes and dislikes. These traits are passed on through genes which are made up of DNA molecules. DNA is a collection of chemical information that makes up our bodies and tells them how to work.

Let's see some heredity in action! Below are pictures of our Education Officer Holly, her partner Andy, and their son Harvey, all around the same age. Study the pictures carefully. Which physical features has Harvey inherited from which parent? A list of things to look for can be found below.

MOTHER

HOLLY

FATHER

ANDY

SON

HARVEY

Name: Date:

Activity 5 – Evolution

Tick who you think Harvey takes after!

	Mother	Father
Eyes:		
Hair:		
Nose:		
Mouth:		
Chin:		
Ears:		
Eyebrows:		
Face shape:		

Has Harvey inherited more physical traits from one parent or is it an equal split?

Name: Date:

Activity 5 – Evolution

Siblings

Harvey doesn't have any brothers or sisters but if he did, they wouldn't look exactly the same as him. Parents pass down different genes and different traits to each of their offspring, so you might be similar but never the same as your siblings, even though you have the same parents.

You can see this outlined perfectly in the picture of the kittens below. They have the same parents, and while their coats look similar, they are all different and unique. What similarities and differences can you see in the kittens' coats? Jot down a few of your *observations* below. The kittens have been numbered to help you write your observations.

Do you take after any family members? Perhaps you could find some photos and compare them as you have with Harvey and his parents, and the kittens.