

**Level 4 • Module 2**

Traits with Spotlight Lessons on Weather and Sky

Lesson Overview

Your student is studying what makes humpback whales unique to understand that inherited traits and environmental conditions result in variation in a species. In Spotlight Lessons on Weather and Sky, your student is analyzing yearlong weather data and studying changes in the sky.

Classroom activities for this module include:

- Observing and comparing humpback whales to notice characteristics and traits
- Studying species to see how individuals' traits are influenced by different factors
- Designing investigations to see how environmental factors influence the traits of plants grown in different water conditions
- Observing plant and animal families to see different traits inherited by individuals
- Modeling how different traits are helpful and provide individuals with advantages
- Identifying patterns in the appearance of the Moon

Conversation Starters

Support your student's learning with these talking points:

- Talk about the characteristics and traits of the different plants and animals near your home.
- Point out advantages of the characteristics and traits of different plants and animals.
- Compare the traits of a species in different places to plants and animals in your local area.
- Talk about weather conditions, such as wind chill, humidity, or air quality.

Activities

Have fun with these related activities at home:

- Take or examine photos of individuals from the same species to look for variation.
- Visit a zoo to observe different characteristics and traits of the animals.
- Look at photos of adult animals, such as dogs, and predict what their offspring might look like.
- Take photos or draw sketches of the Moon over the course of a month.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Visit your local library or use an online library to explore topics related to the module, such as humpback whales, animals and their offspring, and plant and animal traits.



To learn more about humpback whales, visit <https://mersociety.org/humpback>.

To learn more about a species, visit <https://www.inaturalist.org/> and select "Explore."