



Genetics

Tell the Tale

Chapter One of this book discusses Charles Darwin's observation of finches on the Galápagos Islands. Write a 200-word story about Darwin exploring the islands and studying the birds. Describe how he might have gathered information about the birds. What tools would he need? What challenges might he face? Set the scene, develop a sequence of events, and offer a conclusion.



Genetics

Surprise Me

Chapter Three reveals the results of the Human Genome Project. The number of genes in humans and other animals has surprised even the experts. After reading this chapter, what two or three facts about the genome did you find most surprising? Write a few sentences about each fact. Why did you find them surprising?



Genetics

You Are There

Chapter Five describes the first genetically engineered food, a tomato. Imagine that you were at the grocery store on the day that tomato became available. Would you buy it? Describe the situation and your reaction in several sentences so that readers feel they are with you.



Genetics

Take a Stand

Chapter Five discusses the use of cloning and stem cells. Do you think that people should use genetics to treat human diseases? Or do you think these are irresponsible uses of technology? Write a short essay explaining your opinion. Make sure to give reasons for your opinion. Include facts and details that support those reasons.