

Pedigree project

Introduction

This project is designed to help students answer questions about how the study of genetics can be directly related to their own families.

Information

Students create a family pedigree as a product of independent investigation. They learn the symbols used in pedigrees, as well as the usefulness in tracking genetic disorders. Students learn to collect family history, to research genetic disorders and to identify the concepts of Mendelian Inheritance. An oral presentation and a pedigree are required of each student.

Students gather data by interviewing parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, great grandparents, or any other person who has knowledge about their own family characteristics. In the interviews, students ask about traits that their family members have noticed that pass from generation to generation, as well as those that skip a generation. After completing the interview process and locating any available photographs of family and ancestors, students complete a pedigree, which shows as many of the student's family and ancestors as possible.

Sample Pedigree

