

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

STORY

Genomes Offer Murky Clues to Personality, Physical Traits, 01/29/09

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/science/jan-june09/genome_01-29.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. **Where is your chemical blueprint located?**

2. **Why do people want to map their genes?**

3. **What is Human Genome Project?**

4. **What do Wikipedia and the Personal Genome Project have in common?**

5. **Who is Steven Pinker? What did he choose not to learn from his genes?**

6. **What does the company 23andme do?**

7. **What did the government do to try and stop genetic discrimination?**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. If offered the opportunity, would you want to know your genetic makeup? Why or why not?

2. Is there any information that you would never want to know from your genes?

3. Genetic mapping services are becoming cheaper and easier every year- do you think that is a good thing? Why or why not?

4. What do you think of private companies collecting so much personal data? What about the government?

5. Do you think genetic information could affect how you choose a career or live your life?

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.