

## **Baby Mice**

Allison's pet mouse had babies. Six of the babies had long haired fur and 2 of the babies had short haired fur. The father mouse had long-hair and the mother mouse had short hair. Allison and her friends wondered why the mice had different hair types. These were their ideas:

Jerome: "Baby mice inherit more traits from their fathers than their mothers."

Alexa: "The baby mice got half their traits from their father and half from their mother."

Seif: "Long-haired mice have more traits than short-haired mice."

Keisha: "Male traits are stronger than female traits."

Nadia: "The long-haired baby mice are probably male and the short-haired baby mice are probably female."



Write a paper that identifies which explanation is correct. Use evidence to support your ideas and explain your reasoning.

As you write your assignment, it's important to use what you know as a writer to communicate your ideas effectively.

- Organize your paper with a clear claim, supporting evidence, and reasoning that shows how your evidence supports your claim.
- Include evidence from class activities, experiments and other resources.
- Use vocabulary that you have learned in science class.
- Consider using a web or graphic organizer to help you plan your writing.
- Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors before you write your final paper.

## Is it **melting** ?

The list below describes changes in materials. Which of the following are examples of melting?

- Stirring salt in water.
- Holding an ice cube in your hand.
- Pouring vinegar on baking soda.
- Putting a bowl of frozen ice cream in the sun.
- Sawing wood to make sawdust.
- Evaporating water from a heated pan.

Write a paper that identifies which of these descriptions are examples of melting. Use evidence to support your ideas and explain your reasoning.

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### **Phases of the Moon**

Ms. Santos asked her students to share their ideas about what causes the different phases of the Moon. This is what some of her students said.

Jared: “The phases of the moon change according to the season of the year.”

Sophia: “Parts of the moon reflect light depending on the position of the Earth in relation to the Sun and the Moon.

Domenic: “The shadow of the Sun blocks part of the Moon each night causing a pattern of different moon phases.”

Natasha: “The clouds cover the parts of the Moon we can’t see.”



Write a paper that identifies which student is most correct. Use evidence to support your ideas and explain your reasoning.

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