Drawing Monsters - Heredity Performance Task

Goals:
The goal of this activity is to assess your students’ understanding of how traits are passed down from parent to offspring and how traits may vary in the offspring.

Instructions:
1) In this performance task, students should draw a pair of their own made up monster parents and up to four offspring showing that each has inherited traits from their parents. The offspring should not be exactly alike, but should show a variation of traits. This task should follow the Monster Traits activity.

2) By way of inspiration, suggest that they can create monsters that look like animals they know (ants, butterflies, crocodiles, etc.) or something from myth (dragons, Martians, vampires, etc.) or something totally made up. BUT

3) the offspring must have traits inherited from the parents they create.
This activity can be done in the classroom with help filling out their Monster Data Sheets or as homework with help from family members to fill out Monster Data Sheet.

4) Class Learning: Post the monster drawings with their associated Monster Data Sheets in the classroom and take a couple of minutes to look at each one. Talk about the traits of the monster parents and the inherited and variation of traits of the offspring. If you have the time, you can ask each author about the traits they chose for their monster families.

Materials:
large paper, pencils, either crayons or colored pencils, a Monster Data Sheet

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