

Combined Science - Biology

CB3 Knowledge organiser

B3: Genetics

Lesson sequence

- 1. Meiosis
- 2. DNA
- 3. DNA extraction
- 4. Alleles
- 5. Inheritance
- 6. Gene mutation
- 7. Variation

1. Meiosis		
Gametes	Egg cell and sperm cell	
Fertilisation	Sperm cell fuses with egg cell and	
	nuclei combine	
Zygote	Single cell formed by fertilisation	
Gene	Length of DNA coding for a protein.	
	Controls your characteristics	
Genome	All the DNA and genes in an	
	organism	
Protein	Polymer made from amino acids	
Polymer	Long molecule made by chaining	
	together many shorter ones	
Diploid	A cell with 23 pairs of	
	chromosomes (46 in total)	
Haploid	A cell with 23 single chromosomes	
Meiosis	Cell division that makes gametes	
Meiosis	DNA replicates, cell divides into 2	
stages	diploid cells, these divide into 4	
	haploid daughters.	
Why	Chromosomes in a pair are slightly	
gametes	different. Different gametes get	
are	different combinations of	
different	chromosomes.	



2. DNA		
Chromosome	Large DNA molecule made into a small package by	
	tightly coiling DNA around a protein.	
DNA structure	Two strands, double helix, complementary base pairs, sugar-phosphate backbone	
DNA bases	Adenine, A; thymine, T; cytosine, C; guanine, G	
Complementary base pairs	A pairs with T C pairs with G	
Hydrogen bonds	Weak force holding the two strands of DNA together.	
DNA analysis	Uses small differences in DNA to determine family relationships or link people to crimes.	



3. DNA extraction		
DNA extraction:	Salt makes DNA clump	
Mix water, salt and	together, detergent breaks	
detergent.	down cell membranes to	
	release DNA	
DNA extraction:	Increases the surface area	
Mash fruit/veg and		
add the solution		
DNA extraction:	Heat makes it react quicker	
Leave in water bath		
at 60°C		
DNA extraction:	To remove unwanted	
Filter the mixture	lumps	
and collect filtrate		
DNA extraction:	It's easier to work with a	
Measure out 10	small amount	
cm ³ of filtrate		
DNA extraction:	Protease breaks down	
Add two drops of	proteins around the DNA	
protease solution		
DNA extraction:	DNA is insoluble in ethanol	
Gently add ice-cold	so precipitates	
ethanol		
DNA extraction:	So white DNA layer forms	
Leave for several		
minutes		



4. Alleles		
Allele	Different version of the same	
	gene. We have two alleles of	
	each gene.	
Homozygous	We have two copies of the same	
	allele	
Heterozygous	We have two different copies of	
	an allele	
Dominant	One copy needed for	
allele	characteristic to show. Written as	
	a capital.	
Recessive	Two copies for the characteristic	
allele	to show. Written as lowercase.	
Genotype	The combination of alleles in an	
	organism.	
Phenotype	The characteristics produced by	
	the alleles.	
Genetic	Shows the likelihood of offspring	
diagram	produced by parents with certain	
	genotypes	





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5. Inheritance		
Sex	Female: XX	
chromosomes	Males: XY	
Inheriting sex	All eggs are X, 50% of sperm are	
	X and 50% are Y, so 50% of	
	zygotes are XX and 50% are XY	
Punnett	Uses the genotypes of male and	
squares	female gametes to predict the	
	genotypes of the offspring.	
Probability	Punnett squares tell you the	
and Punnett	likelihood of certain offspring,	
squares	not what will actually happen.	
Cystic fibrosis	Illness caused by a inheriting two	
	copies of a faulty recessive allele.	
Family	Chart showing how genotypes	
pedigree	are inherited down through a	
chart	family.	

6. Gene mutation			
Mutation	A change to the bases in a gene.		
Effect of	Change the structure of a protein		
mutations	and how it works. Sometimes		
	harmless, normally harmful, very		
	rarely beneficial		
Cause of	Mistakes copying DNA during cell		
mutations	division, DNA damage from		
	chemicals or radiation		
Inheriting	Only if they occur in gametes (egg		
mutations	and sperm)		
Human	(HGP) Project involving many		
Genome	scientists from many countries to		
Project	find the order of bases in human		
	DNA		
How is the	To tailor drugs to genes, to design		
HGP	better drugs		
useful?			
Genetic	HGP found 99% of DNA in all people		
differences	is identical.		



C A map of part of one human genome. Each coloured band represents a different base in the DNA sequence. Some of the bases in this part of the genome will be different in different people.



	7. Variation
Variation	Natural differences between
	members of a species that affect
	the chance of survival.
Genetic	Variation caused by genes
variation	
Environmental	Caused by interaction with the
variation	surroundings – such as food,
	climate etc.
Causes of	A combination of genes and the
most variation	environment.
Acquired	Changes caused by the
characteristics	environment during your
	lifetime, such as losing a leg
Continuous	Can be anywhere within a range,
variation	such as height, following a
	normal distribution.
Discontinuous	Can be only one of a few
variation	possibilities, such as blood type:
	А, В, АВ, О
Normal	Bell-shaped curve with more in
distribution	the middle and fewer either
	side.

