# Introduction to Genetics

#### The Work of Gregor Mendel B.1.21, B.1.22, B.1.29







## **Genetic Inheritance**

- Heredity: the transmission of characteristics from parent to offspring
- The study of heredity in biology is called <u>"Genetics"</u>
- Gregor Mendel: Austrian monk who studied science and mathematics in Vienna in the mid 1800's. He was also in charge of the monastery garden. Began the new science of genetics with his study of inheritance in pea plants



### <u>Genetic Inheritance</u>

- Fertilization: The process in sexual reproduction in which male (sperm) and female (egg) reproductive cells join to form a new cell.
- The <u>Stamen</u> is the male reproductive part of plants that produce pollen which holds the sperm cells. The <u>Pistil</u> contains the female reproductive organs (ovary, egg cell).

### Genetic Inheritance



## <u>Genetic Inheritance</u>

- Pollination is the fertilization of a plant.
- Self-pollination can occur when a plant fertilizes itself. Plants can also be fertilized by another plant.
- True-Breeding: Term used to describe an organism that produces offspring identical to itself if allowed to selffertilize



# **Genetic Inheritance**

- <u>True-Breeding</u> plants were the basis of Mendel's experiments.
- He could control what traits he wanted to study by selecting plants that only produce specific traits. (tall, short, flower color)
- By removing the stamens from flowers, he could prevent selfpollination



- Trait: A trait is a specific characteristic that varies from one individual to another. (seed color, height)
- The traits Mendel studied had only <u>two</u> contrasting characters. (either short or tall, green or yellow seed)



- Genes Sequence of DNA that determines a trait
- Allele Different forms of a gene.
  ex. allele for purple flower and allele for white flower: both determine flower color
- Alleles can either be <u>Dominant</u> or <u>Recessive</u>.



- Dominant Allele Codes for a trait that is always seen in an organism (Capitol letter)
- Recessive Allele Codes for a trait that is masked by the other trait (lower case)
- Ex. <u>Seed Color</u> Yellow = Y Green = y
   Plant Height Tall = T Short = t

# Homozygous Vs. Heterozygous

- Homozygous organisms are true-breeding for a particular trait
- Heterozygous organisms are hybrid for a particular trait
- Genotype = The genetic makeup of an organism (ex. Tt, PP, yy)
- Phenotype = The observable or physical characteristics of the organism (ex. Tall, purple flower, green seeds)





- P Parental generation (The cross of the original pair of plants)
- F<sub>1</sub> Offspring of the parental cross (stands for "first filial)
- F<sub>2</sub> Offspring produced from crossing the F<sub>1</sub> generation.
- Each offspring receives one factor from each parent for every trait



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## Segregation of Alleles

- Segregation The separation of alleles during the formation of gametes.
- Gametes Specialized cell involved in sexual reproduction.
  Ex. sperm and egg



## Segregation of Alleles

 Mendel's Law of **Segregation:** When an organism produces gametes, the copies of a gene separate so that each gamete receives only one copy.





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## **Genetics and Probability**

- Probability The likelihood that a particular event will occurr. (ex. the flip of a coin, rolling dice)
- Alleles segregate at random when forming gametes, just like the flip of a coin
- Probability can be used to predict the outcomes of genetic crosses



## Probability

• What is the probability of flipping three heads in a row?

#### $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} = 1/8$

## **Probability and Punnett Squares**

- Punnett Square a diagram used to predict and compare the genetic variations that will result from a cross.
- Punnet squares show all the possible genetic combinations that offspring can inherit.

### Punnett Square



### Punnett Squares



and one is mixed hybrid so all offspring are tall.



Both parents are mixed hybrids so offspring are a 3:1 ratio.



Both parents are recessive short so all offspring are short.

# **Probability and Punnett Squares**

- Mendel's assumptions about segregation proved to be correct.
- His predicted ratios (3 dominant to 1 recessive) showed up consistently
- For each of his seven crosses, about <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of the plants showed the trait controlled by the dominant allele.
- Around ¼ showed the trait controlled by the recessive trait.
- Punnett squares help support Mendel's assumptions about segregation

## **Probabilities Predict Averages**

- Probabilities predict the average outcome of a large number of events.
- Probability cannot predict the precise outcome of an individual event
- Large number of events more accurately predicts the expected ratios.
   Ex. Flipping a coin 100 times gets you closer to the predicted 50:50 ratio

## **Exploring Mendelian Genetics**

- Mendel showed that alleles segregate during gamete formation, but wondered if genes for different traits were independent or not.
   Question: Does Segregation of one pair of alleles affect the segregation of another pair of alleles?
- Mendel performed an experiment to test this. A Two-Factor Cross:
- Independent Assortment: Genes that segregate independently do not affect one another's inheritance



### **Summary of Mendel's Principles**

- The inheritance of biological characteristics is determined by individual units know as genes. Genes are passed from parent to offspring.
- In cases in which two or more forms (alleles) of the gene for a single trait exist, some forms of the gene may be dominant and others recessive.
- In most sexually reproducing organisms, each adult has two copies of a gene -one from each parent. These genes are segregated from each other when gametes are formed.
- The alleles for different genes usually segregate independently of one another.

### Incomplete/ Codominance











### **Beyond Dominance and Recessive**

- Genetics is more complicated because most genes have more than two alleles.
- Many Important traits are controlled by more than one gene.
- Incomplete Dominance: One allele is not completely dominant over the other.
- Codominance: Both alleles contribute to the phenotype



# Polygenic Traits

- Many traits are produced by the interaction of several genes.
- Traits controlled by two or more genes are said to be polygenic traits ("having many genes")
- EX: Wide range of skin tones in humans



# GENETIC INHERITANCE: FACE LAB

- Determine sex of child: Male: XY Female: XX
- There are two sex chromosomes: X and Y
- The mother can only pass an X chromosome to the child
- The father can pass an X or a Y
- Have the "father" flip the coin. "Heads" is a male, "Tails" is a female.

# GENETIC INHERITANCE: FACE LAB

- For each trait, heads will be the dominant allele and tails will be the recessive allele.
- Flip your coins and check which trait get on the list.
- After you have gone through all the traits, make a sketch of what your child looks like on the last page using colored pencils.

# GENETIC INHERITANCE: FACE LAB

- Skin color and hair color are polygenic traits.
- You will flip the coins for each gene (A, B, C, D)
- The phenotype is determined by the number of DOMINANT alleles obtained.
| Trait         | Genes from<br>Mother | Genes from<br>Father | Genotype | Phenotype |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------|-----------|
| Face<br>Shape | R                    | r                    | Rr       | Round     |

Explain why the offspring of this genetic cross are neither white nor red using what you know about dominant and recessive

traits.



#### Incomplete/ Codominance











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#### **Beyond Dominant & Recessive**

- Multiple Alleles: Many genes have more than two alleles.
- This does not mean that an individual can have more than two alleles.
- It only means that more than two possible alleles exist in a population.
  Ex: Blood type in humans [A, [B, ]O

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# Applying Mendel's Principles

- Thomas Hunt Morgan contributed to our understanding of genetics by studying fruit flies.
- He chose fruit flies because they were animals, easy to keep in the lab, had large offspring sizes, and had short generation times (reproduce quickly).



 Hunt discovered traits linked on sex chromosomes (X,Y)



#### 11-4 Meiosis

#### • <u>Key Terms:</u>

- Meiosis- Process by which the number of chromosomes in each cell are cut in half through the separation of homologous chromosomes.
- Homologous Chromosomes A pair of similar chromosomes, one from each parent.
- Diploid ("two sets") cells that contain both sets of homologous chromosomes
- Haploid ("one set") cells that only contain one set of homologous chromosomes

# Meiosis

- Gregor Mendel did not know where the genes he had discovered were located in the cell. He did know that traits followed mathematical models of probability.
- Mendel's contributions to genetics helped biologists discover what genes were and where they were located (on chromosomes)
- Remember: Genes are segment of DNA that code for a trait

#### **Chromosome Number**

- A cell that contains both sets of homologous chromosomes is said to be diploid, which means "two sets"
- The number of diploid chromosomes in a diploid cell is represented by the symbol 2N.
- Ex: The diploid number in humans is 46 2N = 46

### **Chromosome Number**

- By contrast, gametes of sexually reproducing organisms contain only a single set of chromosomes, therefore only a single set of genes.
- Such cells with only one set of chromosomes are said to be haploid.
- For humans, the haploid number is:

#### N = 23

#### **Chromosome Number**

- Diploid ("two sets") cells that contain both sets of homologous chromosomes
- Haploid ("one set") cells that only contain one set of homologous chromosomes



haploid chromosome

diploid chromosome

# Bell Ringer What is the main difference between Mitosis and Meiosis.

# Meiosis



- Meiosis The process of reductive division in which the number of chromosomes per cell is cut in half through a separation of homologous chromosomes in a diploid cell
- Meiosis is how haploid (N) reproductive cells are produced from diploid (2N) cells.
- In contrast, Mitosis is a process of cell division which results in the production of two identical daughter cells from a single parent cell.



- Meiosis involves two distinct divisions, called Meiosis I and Meiosis II.
- During meiosis I, genetic material (DNA) is replicated and the cell divides, similar to mitosis



- In Prophase I of Meiosis I, two homologous pairs of chromosomes line up against each other, forming a tetrad.
- While the chromosomes are lined up next to each other, the they exchange portions of themselves in a process we call crossing over.
- Each chromosome is now different, due to crossing over







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- DNA does not replicate during Meiosis II
- During Meiosis II, the two daughtor cells will divide again
- Chromosomes line up in the middle of the cells and split apart (just like Meiosis I)
- The end result is four haploid cells.
- Each sell is different from the original parent cell.



- What structures actually assort independently?
- What are gene maps?
- What do gene maps tell us about the likelihood of independent assortment?



- Do genes on the same chromosome assort independently?
- Thomas Hunt Morgan's research on fruit flies led him to the principal of linkage.
- He discovered that many genes appeared to be linked together, violating the law of independent assortment.
- He found that flies with orange eyes and minature wings almost always inherited these two traits together.

- These findings led Thomas Hunt Morgan to discover that each chromosome is a group of linked genes.
- It is chromosomes that assort independently of one another, not individual genes.
- Genes on the same chromosome, however, can still separate due to crossing over.



- Two genes on the same chromosome will assort independently depending on how far apart they are (map units).
- The farther apart two genes are, the more likely they are to be separated by crossing over during meiosis
- The rate at which genes separated and recombined is used to create a "map" of how far apart they are.

# Bell-Ringer

• Write out a multiple choice or true/false question over material from chapter 11 to be used on the test on Thursday

#### Science News:

 Marine biologists have, for the first time, found a whale skeleton on the ocean floor near Antarctica, giving new insights into life in the sea depths. The discovery was made almost a mile below the surface in an undersea crater and includes the find of at least nine new species of deep-sea organisms thriving on the bones.





# Chapter 11 Review

- Where does an organism get its unique characteristics?
- How are different forms of a gene distributed to offspring?
- How can we use probability to predict traits?
- How do alleles segregate when more than one gene is involved?

# Chapter 11 Review

- What did Mendel contribute to our understanding of genetics?
- What are some exceptions to Mendel's principles?
- Does the environment have a role in how genes determine traits?
- How many sets of genes are found in most adult organisms?

# Chapter 11 Review

- What events occur during each phase of meiosis?
- How is meiosis different from mitosis?
- How can two alleles from different genes be inherited together?








## Punnett Square



### Punnett Squares



and one is mixed hybrid so all offspring are tall.



Both parents are mixed hybrids so offspring are a 3:1 ratio.



Both parents are recessive short so all offspring are short.

#### Parents (F<sub>1</sub>) : RrYy x RrYy



9/16 yellow-round 3/16 yellow-wrinkled 3/16 green-round 1/16 green-wrinkled







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Mature human sperm has only 23 chromosomes

Mature human egg has only 23 chromosomes

Fertilized egg

During fertilization the chromosomes from the sperm and egg unite to give the fertilized egg (also called a zygote) a total of 46 chromosomes.