Mitosis

- Growth & repair
- Produces 2 genetically identical cells
- Cells are diploid (full chromosome set), 2n
- Occurs in somatic (body) cells

Meiosis

- Production of gametes (sperm & egg)
- Produces 4 genetically different cells
- Cells are haploid (half chromosome set), n
- Occurs in testes & ovary

How meiosis causes variation / new combinations of genes in the gametes

- Crossing over bits of homologous chromosomes are exchanged (swapped) during meiosis
- Independent assortment; it is random which one of a pair of homologous chromosomes goes into a gamete after they line up in pairs during meiosis

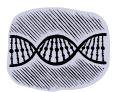
The big picture

- Chromosomes are made up of DNA
- The chromosomes carry genes along them
- Genes code for proteins
- DNA is triplet code; 3 bases = one amino acid
- Some bases are stop / start, others are nonsense (don't code for anything we know!)
- Sequence of bases determines the protein produced which gives the characteristic / trait
- Small differences in DNA sequence of a gene = alleles (result by mutations)
- Alternative version of a gene = allele

Genetics terms

- Homozygous 2 alleles the same e.g. BB or bb
- Heterozygous 2 different alleles e.g. Bb
- Pure breeding individual which always produces offspring which all resemble the parent / is homozygous (for a trait)
- Dominant characteristic that <u>always shows</u> if the dominant allele is present
- Recessive characteristic that only shows if there is no dominant allele present
- Dominant allele masks the recessive allele

GENETICS



SURVIVAL SHEET

Punnett squares

- Gametes written at side / top single letters
- Genotype combination of alleles
- Phenotype physical appearance/feature
- Ratio 1 BB: 2 Bb: 1 bb or 3 brown: 1 blue
- Punnet square predicts "possible" outcomes and probability but NOT exact numbers
- Fertilisation is random (which sperm & which egg) so we don't EXACTLY get predicted ratios
- The larger the number of offspring the closer the results will be to the predicted ratios

DNA structure & replication

- Sugar & phosphate backbone
- "ladder' of bases
- A=T and C≡G / complementary base pairing
- Nucleotide = sugar & phosphate + base
- DNA unwinds and opens up, exposing BASES, new nucleotides come in (join A=T and C≡G, nucleotides joined by enzymes, DNA winds up again
- DNA has to be accurately copied to ensure that the daughter cells created have the same DNA as the parent cell

Mutation

- Permanent change in DNA sequence or number of chromosomes
- Difference in base sequence → (may produce a) different amino acid sequence → different protein
- Change in order = slightly altered gene
- Alternative form of same gene is called an allele (Remember "a" for "alternative")
- Mutations can only be passed on if they are in a gamete / sex cell

Natural selection - e.g. disease resistance

- Genetic diversity is due to meiosis
- Disease which affects one individual may not affect all the individuals because of the different combination of genes
- Some individuals are more resistant to disease than others due differences in genetic material
- These individuals can survive & breed
- Resistance may be passed on
- If it is useful it can lead to evolution
- Survival of the fittest (better suited = survival)