

Genetic Terminology

DNA The molecule which contains genes. It's shaped like a double helix (a spiral) Chromosomes Found in the cell nucleus:
X-shaped things made up of long coils of DNA Chromatids The separate arms of the chromosomes Centromere Area at
centre of chromosome where the separate arms meet Gene Section of DNA molecule Allele A gene, but there are two
types of alleles Homozygous An organism with two alleles the same for a particular gene (e.g. HH or hh) Heterozygous An
organism with two alleles that are different (e.g. Hh) Dominant An allele/gene that determines the characteristics in the organism
(dominant over the recessive allele) Recessive Does not usually affect the phenotype of the organism Genotype The
description of the GENES you have (e.g. MM or Hh etc...) Phenotype The description of your PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES (e.g. hair colour)
Mitosis Cell division - one cell splits into two identical cells Meiosis Cell division - produces haploid cells (the sperm / egg
cells) Diploid Describes a cell with the full number of chromosomes (46 for humans) Haploid Describes a cell with half the
full number of chromosomes Zygote A newly formed life just after fertilisation of the egg by the sperm Gamete A sperm /
egg cell (both haploid)

About the Author

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