

Genetics
3.3- Meiosis

Essential idea:

- Alleles segregate during meiosis allowing new combinations to be formed by the fusion of gametes.

Nature of science:

- Making careful observations
 - Meiosis was discovered by microscope examination of dividing germ-line cells. (1.8)
 - Early microscopes made observations of chromosomes difficult.
 - Choice of organism, tissue, slide preparation and interpreting microscope images are difficult to do.
 - Therefore it took years of careful examination by scientists to discover and fully understand meiosis.

Theory of knowledge:

- In 1922 the number of chromosomes counted in a human cell was 48. This remained the established number for 30 years, even though a review of photographic evidence from the time clearly showed that there were 46.
- For what reasons do existing beliefs carry a certain inertia?

Meiosis

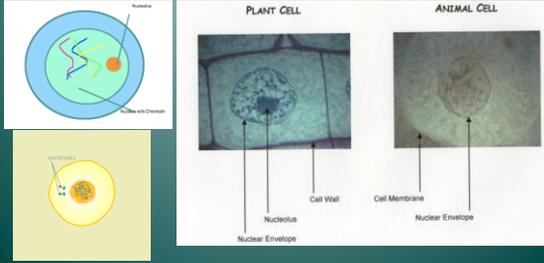
- One diploid (2n) nucleus divides by meiosis to produce four haploid (1n) nuclei.
- DNA is replicated before meiosis so that all chromosomes consist of two sister chromatids

Meiosis

- The halving of the chromosome number allows a sexual life cycle with fusion of gametes.

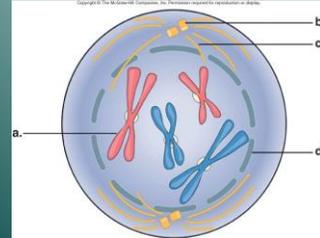
Meiosis I

- Interphase I
 - Chromatin replicates
 - Centrioles replicate (2 Pairs)



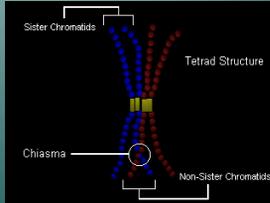
Meiosis I

- Prophase I
 - Nucleolus disappears; nuclear envelope fragments; centrosomes migrate away from each other; and spindle fibers assemble.
 - Chromatin condenses and sister chromatids become microscopically visible.



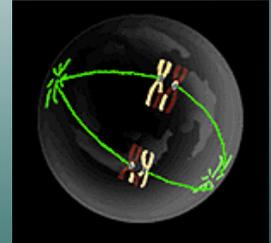
Meiosis I

- Prophase I
 - Homologous chromosomes undergo **synapsis** (pair up) forming tetrads.
 - Homologous chromatids exchange genetic material by "crossing over" which increases genetic variation in the resultant gametes.
 - Homologues are temporarily held together at **chiasma**, regions where the nonsister chromatids are attached due to crossing-over.



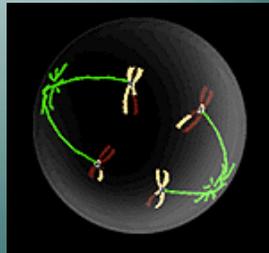
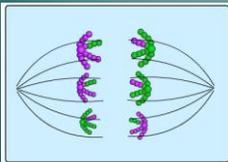
Meiosis I

- Metaphase I
 - Tetrads held together at chiasmata are aligned on the metaphase plate.
 - Orientation of pairs of homologous chromosomes prior to separation is random.
 - Kinetochores attach to centrioles to centromeres.



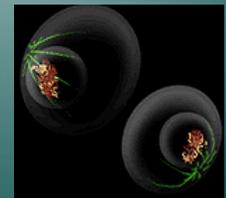
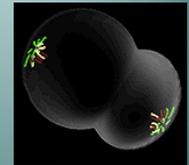
Meiosis I

- Anaphase I
 - The homologues of each tetrad separate and move toward opposite poles.
 - Each chromosome still has two sister chromatids.



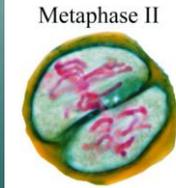
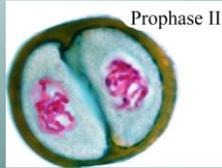
Meiosis I

- Telophase I and Cytokinesis.
 - Cleavage furrows or cell plates form.
 - Forms 2 haploid cells
 - Separation of pairs of homologous chromosomes in the first division of meiosis halves the chromosome number.



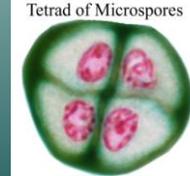
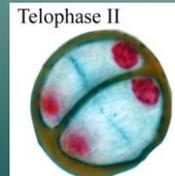
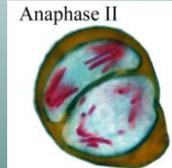
Meiosis II

- Prophase II
 - If cell underwent interkinesis, then nuclei disperse.
 - Spindle forms.
- Metaphase II
 - Haploid number of chromosomes align at metaphase plate.
 - Kinetochores of sister chromatids point to opposite poles.

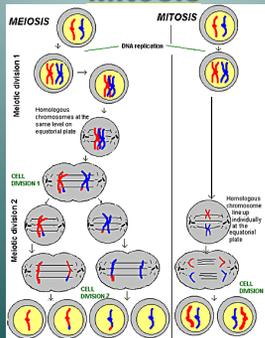


Meiosis II

- Anaphase II
 - Centromeres divide
 - Sister chromatids move toward the poles.
- Telophase II and cytokinesis
 - Nuclei form at opposite poles
 - There are four haploid cells.



Comparison of Meiosis with Mitosis



Significance of Meiosis

- Fusion of gametes from different parents promotes genetic variation.
- Variation provides for adaptations to changing environment.
- Asexual organisms depend primarily on mutations to generate variation
- Keeps chromosome numbers constant in species
- Ensures daughter cells receive one of each kind of gene



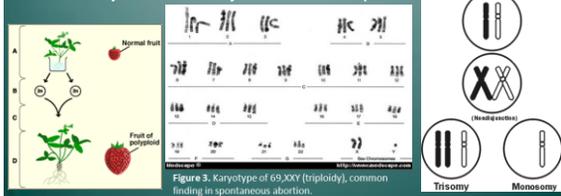
Common Name	Genus and Species	Diploid Number
Buffalo	Bison bison	60
Cat	Felis catus	38
Cattle	Bos taurus, B. indicus	60
Dog	Canis familiaris	78
Donkey	E. asinus	62
Goat	Capra hircus	60
Horse	Equus caballus	64
Human	Homo sapiens	46
Pig	Sus scrofa	38
Sheep	Ovis aries	54

Significance of Meiosis

- Independent assortment provides 2^n possible combinations of chromosomes in daughter cells.
 - In humans with 23 haploid chromosomes, $2^n = 2^{23} = 8,388,608$ possible combinations.
- Variation is added by crossing-over; if only one crossover occurs within each tetrad, 4^{23} or 70,368,744,000,000 (70 trillion) combinations are possible.
- Fertilization also contributes to genetic variation; $(2^{23})^2 = 70,368,744,000,000$ possible combinations without crossing-over.
- With fertilization and crossing-over, $(4^{23})^2 = 4,951,760,200,000,000,000,000,000$ combinations are possible.

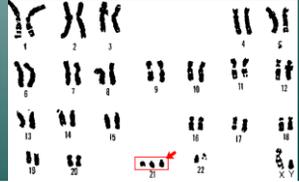
Nondisjunction

- Failure of chromosomes to separate
- Monosomy: missing one chromosome
- Trisomy: three of one type of chromosome.
- Polyploidy
 - More than two complete sets of chromosomes
 - Create triploids [3n], tetraploids [4n], etc.
 - A major evolutionary mechanism in plants.



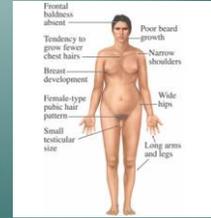
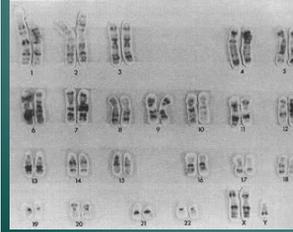
Down Syndrome (Trisomy 21)

- Application: Non-disjunction can cause Down syndrome and other chromosome abnormalities
- Nondisjunction at 21
- Appearance includes; excess skin at the nape of the neck, flattened nose, single crease in the palm of the hand, small ears, small mouth, upward slanting eyes
- Down syndrome is the most common single cause of human birth defects.



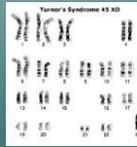
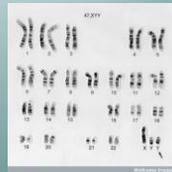
Klinefelter Syndrome (XXY)

- Nondisjunction of sex chromosomes
- Feminization, sterile, underdeveloped testes.



Other Nondisjunction Disorders

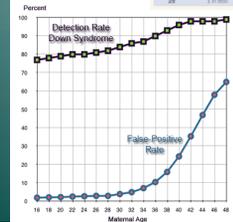
- Jacob's Syndrome
 - XYY males
 - Learning problems at school
 - Delayed emotional maturity
 - Tall, thin, acne
 - Not overly aggressive
- Turner's Syndrome
 - XO females
 - Short, webbed neck, no puberty.



Application:

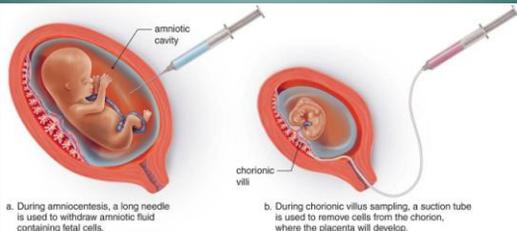
- Studies showing age of parents influences chances of nondisjunction.

Maternal Age	Incidence of Down syndrome	Maternal Age	Incidence of Down syndrome	Maternal Age	Incidence of Down syndrome
20	1 in 10,000	32	1 in 2,000	42	1 in 1,000
35	1 in 3,700	35	1 in 800	45	1 in 80
38	1 in 2,000	38	1 in 700	48	1 in 70
40	1 in 1,400	40	1 in 600	49	1 in 60
24	1 in 3,300	34	1 in 500	44	1 in 40
36	2 in 2,000	36	2 in 200	46	2 in 30
39	1 in 1,000	39	1 in 300	46	1 in 25
37	2 in 1,000	37	2 in 200	47	2 in 20
39	1 in 1,000	39	2 in 200	49	1 in 15
39	1 in 900	39	1 in 150	49	1 in 10



Application:

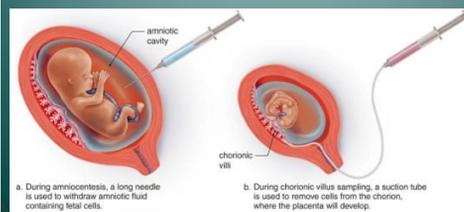
- Description of methods used to obtain cells for karyotype analysis e.g. chorionic villus sampling and amniocentesis and the associated risks.
 - Chorionic Villus Sampling
 - o Risks : miscarriage, Rh sensitization, infection



a. During amniocentesis, a long needle is used to withdraw amniotic fluid containing fetal cells.
 b. During chorionic villus sampling, a suction tube is used to remove cells from the chorion, where the placenta will develop.

Application:

- Description of methods used to obtain cells for karyotype analysis e.g. chorionic villus sampling and amniocentesis and the associated risks.
 - Amniocentesis
 - o Risks: miscarriage, Rh sensitization, infection, leaking amniotic fluid, needle injury, infection transmission

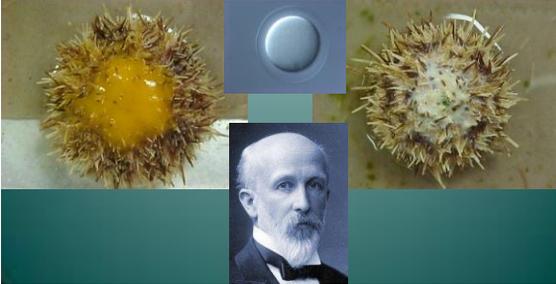


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End

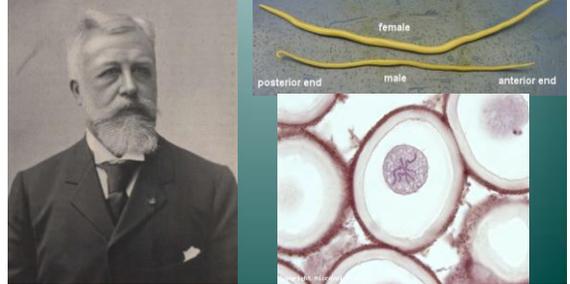
Discovery of Meiosis

- 1876 - German biologist Oscar Hertwig recognized the role of the cell nucleus during inheritance and chromosome reduction during meiosis from work on Sea Urchins.



Discovery of Meiosis

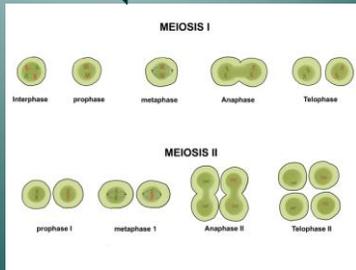
- 1883 - Belgian zoologist Edouard Van Beneden discovered in the roundworm Ascaris how 4 chromosomes organize during meiosis.



Discovery of Meiosis

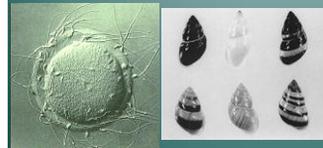
- 1890 - German biologist August Weismann theorize that two cell divisions were necessary to transform one diploid cell into four haploid cells.

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Fertilization

- Involves the fusion of two gametes
- Increases genetic variation in populations by providing for new combinations of genetic information in the zygote
- Restores the diploid number of chromosomes.



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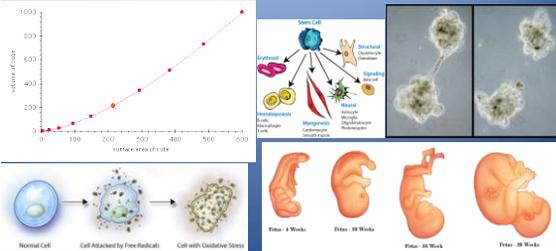
Chromosomal Numbers of Some Common Organisms

Organism	Body Cell (2n)	Gamete (n)
Human	46	23
Garden pea	14	7
Fruit fly	8	4
Tomato	24	12
Dog	78	39
Chimpanzee	48	24
Leopard frog	26	13
Corn	20	10

Purpose of Cell Division

Remember 1.6 Notes

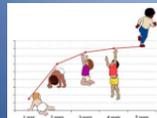
- Reduce SA/V ratio (increases efficiency).
- Asexual reproduction.
- Growth (size) and Development (differentiation)
- Replace dead or damaged cells.



Mitosis

Remember 1.6 Notes

- Mitosis plays a role in growth, repair, and asexual reproduction
- Mitosis is division of the nucleus into two genetically identical daughter nuclei.



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