

Genetics Vocabulary

Alleles – a gene located at a specific position on a specific chromosome; BB, Bb, bb

Chromosome – long bunched up strands of DNA inside the nucleus of cells

Co-dominant - Two different alleles that are fully expressed in an organism

Dominant trait – A trait that will appear in the offspring if one of the parents contribute it

Double helix – A twisted ladder shape

DNA – many sets of genes that make up chromosomes that make you the way you are

DNA bases – A-T, G-C; Adenine, Thymine, Cytosine, Guanine

Gene – A part of a Chromosome that codes for a specific hereditary trait

Genotype - The genetic code for your physical traits (BB, Bb, bb)

Heredity – Genes and traits being passed from one generation to another generation

Heterozygous – Having different pairs of genes for a characteristic (Bb)

Homozygous – Having the same pairs of genes for a characteristic (BB, bb)

Incomplete dominance – Neither gene is dominant so the offspring shows a mixture of the two traits (red + white=pink)

Offspring – the product of the reproductive process of a plant or animal

Phenotype – The physical appearance or a trait that can be observed

Punnett square – A tool used to calculate the possibilities of specific genotypes and phenotypes

Recessive trait – A trait that can only be shown if there are two recessive alleles present (bb)

Trait – An inherited characteristic