

Essential Vocabulary

Alternative Patterns of Heredity



codominance	
continuous variation	A variation in a characteristic in which individuals show a range of traits with small differences between them.
crossing over	The process during meiosis in which homologous chromosomes exchange linear segments of genetic material.
discontinuous variation	A variation in a characteristic in which individuals show two, or a few, traits with large differences between them.
epistasis	An interaction between genes such that one gene masks or interference with the expression of another.
incomplete dominance	In a heterozygote, expression of two contrasting alleles such that the individual displays intermediate phenotype.
linkage	A phenomenon in which alleles that are located in close proximity to each other on the same chromosome are more likely to be inherited together
multiple alleles	A trait controlled by one gene with more than two alleles
polygenic characteristic	Characteristic, or trait, controlled by more than one gene, each of which may have two or more alleles
recombination	During crossing over, the exchange of DNA segments dramatically increases genetic variability in the offspring and separating linked genes.
sex chromosome	X or Y chromosome (in humans)
sex-linked traits	Traits controlled by a gene located on a sex chromosome
sex-linked gene	A gene located on a sex chromosome
x-linked gene	A gene present on the X chromosome, but not on the Y