

# 03 DNA & Inheritance

Content Area: **Science**  
Course(s): **Biology A**  
Time Period: **Semester 2**  
Length: **10 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Standards

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SCI.HS.LS1.A	Structure and Function
SCI.HS.LS3.A	Inheritance of Traits
SCI.HS.LS3.B	Variation of Traits
SCI.HS.LS3-3	Apply concepts of statistics and probability to explain the variation and distribution of expressed traits in a population.
SCI.HS.LS3-2	Make and defend a claim based on evidence that inheritable genetic variations may result from: (1) new genetic combinations through meiosis, (2) viable errors occurring during replication, and/or (3) mutations caused by environmental factors.
SCI.HS.LS3-1	Ask questions to clarify relationships about the role of DNA and chromosomes in coding the instructions for characteristic traits passed from parents to offspring.
SCI.HS.LS1-1	Construct an explanation based on evidence for how the structure of DNA determines the structure of proteins which carry out the essential functions of life through systems of specialized cells.
	Engaging in Argument from Evidence
	Asking Questions and Defining Problems
	Structure and Function
	Analyzing and Interpreting Data
	Cause and Effect
	Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
	Scale, Proportion, and Quantity

## Enduring Understandings

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1. All cells contain genetic information in the form of DNA molecules. Genes are regions in the DNA that contain the instructions that code for the formation of proteins, which carry out most of the work of cells.
2. In all organisms the genetic instructions for forming species' characteristics are carried in the chromosomes. Each chromosome consists of a single very long DNA molecule, and each gene on the chromosome is a particular segment of that DNA.
3. The instructions for forming species' characteristics are carried in DNA. All cells in an organism have the same genetic content, but the genes used (expressed) by the cell may be regulated in different ways. Not all DNA codes for a protein; some segments of DNA are involved in regulatory or structural functions, and some have no as-yet known function.
4. The information passed from parents to offspring is coded in the DNA molecules that form the chromosomes. In sexual reproduction, chromosomes can sometimes swap sections during the process

of meiosis (cell division), thereby creating new genetic combinations and thus more genetic variation.

5. Although DNA replication is tightly regulated and remarkably accurate, errors do occur and result in mutations, which are also a source of genetic variation. Environmental factors can also cause mutations in genes, and viable mutations are inherited. Environmental factors also affect expression of traits, and hence affect the probability of occurrences of traits in a population. Thus the variation and distribution of traits observed depend on both genetic and environmental factors.

## **Essential Questions**

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1. How are characteristics of one generation passed to the next?
2. How can individuals of the same species and even siblings have different characteristics?
3. How are the characteristics of one generation related to the previous generation?
4. Why do individuals of the same species vary in how they look, function, and behave?
5. How is the information present in a gene interpreted to produce a protein?
6. How can an alteration of the DNA nucleotide sequence affect the protein produced?
7. How has our understanding of genetics changed through time?
8. What ethical issues are raised related to biotechnology?

## **Knowledge and Skills**

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Knowledge:

1. Students will know that systems of specialized cells within organisms help them perform the essential functions of life. (DCI LS1.A Structure and Function)
2. Students will know that all cells contain genetic information in the form of DNA molecules. Genes are regions in the DNA that contain the instructions that code for the formation of proteins, which carry out most of the work of cells. (DCI LS1.A Structure and Function)
3. Students will know that each chromosome consists of a single very long DNA molecule, and each gene on the chromosome is a particular segment of that DNA. The instructions for forming species' characteristics are carried in DNA. All cells in an organism have the same genetic content, but the genes used (expressed) by the cell may be regulated in different ways. Not all DNA codes for protein; some segments of DNA are involved in regulatory or structural functions, and some have no as-yet known function. (DCI LS3.A)
4. Students will know that in sexual reproduction, chromosomes can sometimes swap sections during the process of meiosis (cell division), thereby creating new genetic combinations and thus more genetic variation. Although DNA replication is tightly regulated and remarkably accurate, errors do occur and

result in mutations which are also a source of genetic variation. Environmental factors can also cause mutations in genes, and viable mutations are inherited. (DCI LS3.B Variation of Traits)

5. Students will know that environmental factors also affect expression of traits, and hence affect the probability of occurrences of traits in a population. Thus the variation and distribution of traits observed depends on both genetic and environmental factors. ((DCI LS3.B Variation of Traits)

#### Skills:

1. Construct an explanation based on evidence for how the structure of DNA determines the structure of proteins which carry out these essential functions of life through systems of specialized cells.
2. Ask questions to clarify relationships about the role of DNA and chromosomes in coding instructions for characteristics traits passed from parents to offspring.
3. Make and defend a claim based on evidence that inheritable genetic variations may result from: (1) new genetic combinations through meiosis, (2) viable error occurring during replication, and/or (3) mutations caused by environmental factors.
4. Apply concepts of statistics and probability to explain the variation and distribution of expressed traits in a population.

#### **Assessments**

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[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wR7bQF-8AQoRrt0g4C3hKja0yjwDjC9\\_BiAmONWbTcl/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wR7bQF-8AQoRrt0g4C3hKja0yjwDjC9_BiAmONWbTcl/edit?usp=sharing)

#### **Modifications**

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<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ODqaPP69YkcFiyG72fit8XsUIe3K1VSG7nxuc4CpCec/edit?usp=sharing>