Chapter 2:

Meiosis and the production of gametes

TB - Ch. 12, p. 275

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Meiosis

Meiosis is a form of cell division during which the number of chromosomes is reduced by half, resulting in a specialized cell called a gamete.

Gametes are an organism's sex cells. Two cells from separate parents will fuse and create a new cell that contains double the amount of chromosome than the gametes, otherwise known as the "full set".

Human male gamete: sperm cell Human female gamete: egg cell

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The role of chromosomes

Each species has a specific number of chromosomes in it's cells. Humans, for example, have 46 chromosomes.

A closer look at the fruit fly:

Fruit flies have 8 chromosomes, which makes them ideal as simple study objects.

- 4 chromosomes come from the male parent
- 4 chromosomes from from the female parent.

Total: 8

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Chromosomes from female parent

Each chromosome from the male parent has a corresponding chromosome from the female parent.

These chromosomes are said to be homologous

A cell with both sets of chromosomes is said to be diploid two sets

See figure 11- 14 p. 275

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Diploid cells are represented by the expression chromosomes. This is a full set of genes.

2n, meaning 2 sets of

In fruit flies, 2n = 8. In humans, 2n = 46.

Organisms need to be able to create a specialized cell for reproduction.

These cells are called **gametes** and contains only 1 set of

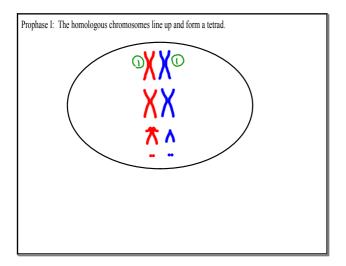
chromosomes. This is a *haploid* cell.

Haploid cells are represented by the expression n, meaning one set of chromosomes. This is a half a set of genes.

In fruit flies, n = 4 In humans, n = 23.

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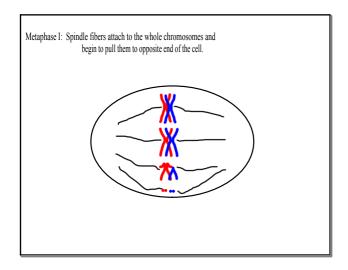
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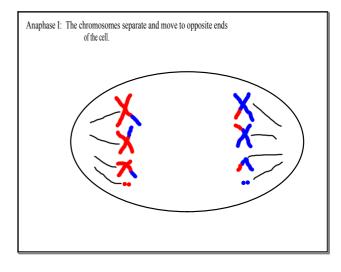


In this phase, the homologous chromosomes undergo a process called crossing-over which homologous genes are switched from one chromosome to the other.

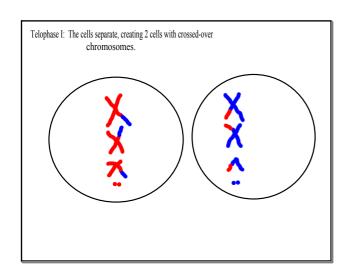
This is what ensures that the resulting offspring will always be unique because crossing over rarely happens the same way twice.

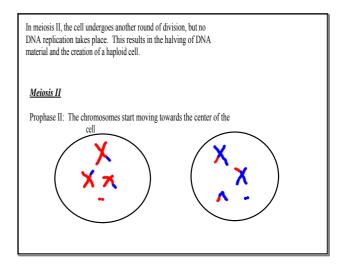
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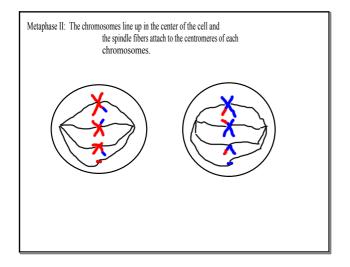
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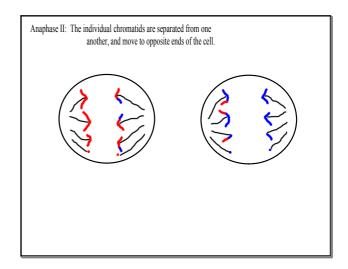




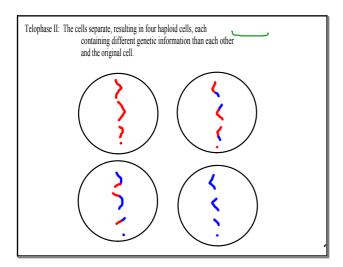
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Interactive meiosis diagram

http://www.phschool.com/webcodes10/index.cfm?
fuseaction=home.gotoWebCode&wcprefix=cbp&wcsuffix=4114

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Assignment:

Read through the section titled: "Comparing mitosis and meiosis" on page 278. Make your own notes (2 - 3 sentences max.)

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