

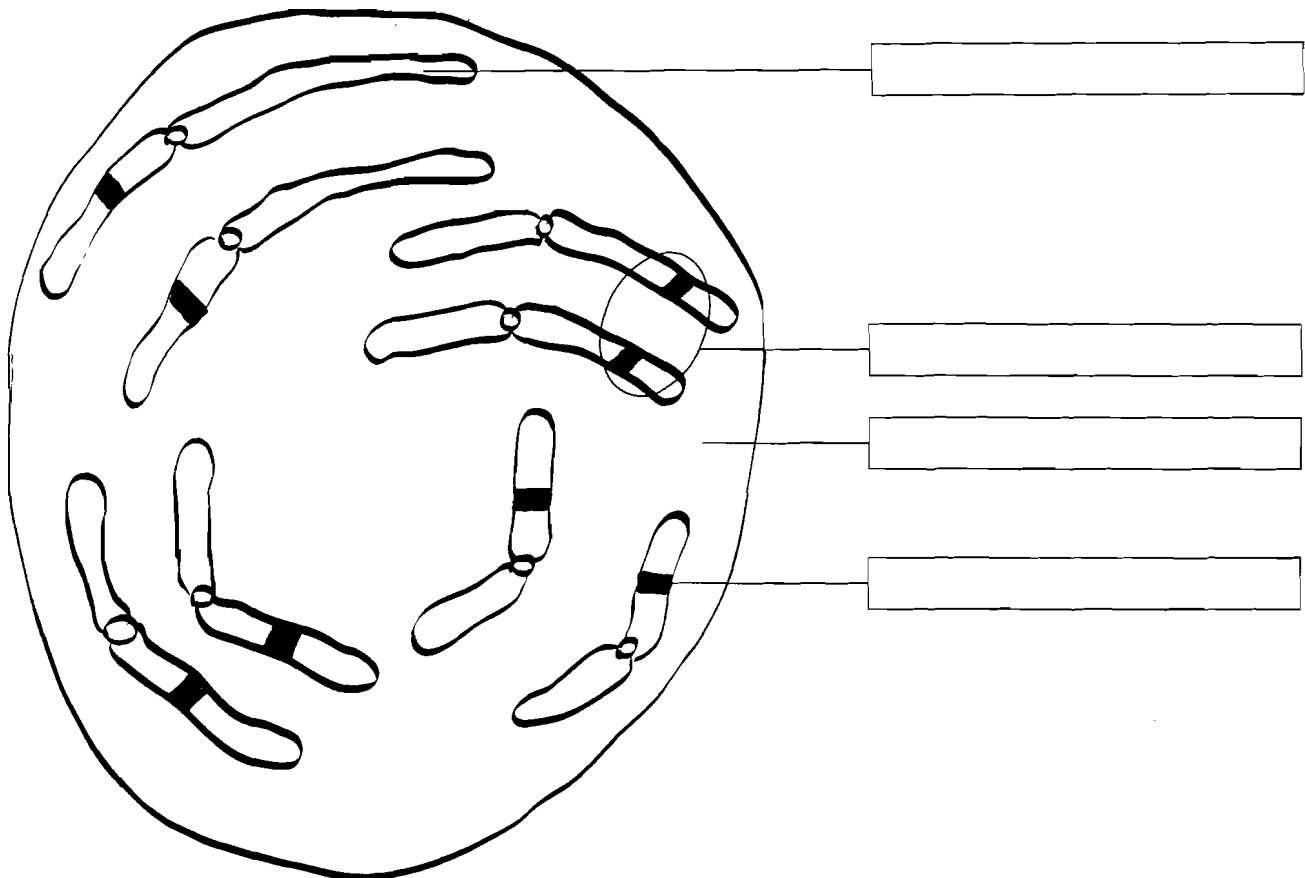
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## GENETICS VOCABULARY

The offspring of organisms often grow up to look like one or both of their parents. This is because offspring inherit information from their parents that directs their development.

The inherited information is located in the \_\_\_\_\_ of every cell in the organism. The information is coded in the huge \_\_\_\_\_ molecule. The huge molecules are coiled into compact hot dog-shaped structures called \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ are always present in almost identical pairs. Locations on chromosomes that affect features of organisms are called \_\_\_\_\_. A gene is composed of \_\_\_\_\_. An organism's unique combination of genes is its \_\_\_\_\_. The traits produced by an organism's genes is its \_\_\_\_\_. Alleles that have more influence in determining traits are \_\_\_\_\_ alleles. Alleles that have less influence in determining traits are \_\_\_\_\_ alleles.



17. **Adaptation:** any structure or behavior that increases its chances of surviving and reproducing.
18. **Feature:** any general structure, characteristic, or behavior of an organism. (wings, fur pattern, color, migration)
19. **Trait:** any specific expression of a feature in an individual. (wing length, density of fur, number of spots, intensity of color, timing of migration)
20. **Variation:** a range of expression of a trait within a population
21. **Chromosome:** structures that transfer hereditary information to the next generation
22. **Genes:** the basic units of heredity carried by the chromosomes; code for features of an organism
23. **Allele:** variations of genes that determine traits in organisms; the two corresponding alleles on two paired chromosomes constitute a gene
24. **Genotype:** an organism's particular combination of paired alleles
25. **Phenotype:** the traits produced by the genotype; the expression of genes
26. **Homozygous gene:** a gene composed of two identical alleles (both dominant or both recessive)
27. **Heterozygous gene:** a gene composed of two different alleles (dominant and recessive)
28. **Natural Selection:** the process by which the individuals best adapted to their environment tend to survive and pass traits to subsequent generations