

Review of Basic Mendelian Genetics Terms:

The following is a list of basic terms to review before beginning this module. These terms will be used throughout the module and the more familiar you are with the terms before beginning the easier it will be to follow and complete each content element. A good way to study these terms is making flashcards. Flashcards can be hand made but there are also several websites (example; www.Quizlet.com) that allow you to make online versions.

Allele- Alternative sequences of DNA that code for different versions of a given gene.

Diploid- Cell containing both copies of all homologous chromosomes within the genome.

Dominant- The version of a gene that, if present in the genome, masks the expression of an alternative version.

Gene- Sequence of DNA that codes for a specific protein within an individual.

Genotype- The pair of alleles present within the genome of a given individual.

Heterozygous- A genotype consisting of two different alleles for a given gene.

Homozygous- A genotype consisting of two of the same alleles for a given gene.

Phenotype- The actual appearance of an individual controlled by the genes present.

Punnett Square- A short-hand method for determining the possible genotypes and phenotype that will result from a given cross between two individuals of known genotype.

Recessive- The version of a gene that, if present in the genome, must be present at both alleles in order to control the phenotype.

Trait- The physical characteristics of an individual.