

Mitosis and Meiosis and their comparison



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- Genetic continuity between generations of cells and between generations of sexually reproducing organisms is maintained through the processes of mitosis and meiosis, respectively.
- Diploid eukaryotic cells contain their genetic information in pairs of homologous chromosomes, with one member of each pair being derived from the maternal parent and one from the paternal parent.
- Mitosis provides a mechanism by which chromosomes, having been duplicated, are distributed into progeny cells during cell reproduction.



- Mitosis converts a diploid cell into two diploid daughter cells.
- The process of meiosis distributes one member of each homologous pair of chromosomes into each gamete or spore, thus reducing the diploid chromosome number to the haploid chromosome number.
- Meiosis generates genetic variability by distributing various combinations of maternal and paternal members of each homologous pair of chromosomes into gametes or spores.
- During the stages of mitosis and meiosis, the genetic material is condensed into discrete structures called chromosomes.



Cell Structure Is Closely Tied to Genetic Function





Chromosomes Exist in Homologous Pairs in Diploid Organisms

Centromere location	Designation	Metaphase shape	Anaphase shape
Middle	Metacentric	Sister Centromere	
Between middle and end	Submetacentric	p arm	-
Close to end	Acrocentric	ň	
At end	Telocentric	0	6

FIGURE 2.3 Centromere locations and the chromosome designations that are based on them. Note that the shape of the chromosome during anaphase is determined by the position of the centromere during metaphase.



Chromosomes Exist in Homologous Pairs in Diploid Organisms

TABLE 2.1 The Haploid Number of Chromosomes for a Variety of Organisms

Common Name	Sciencific Name	Haploid Number
Black bread mold	Aspergillus nidulans	8
Broad bean	Vicia faba	6
Chimpanzee	Pan troglodytes	24
Corn	Zea mays	10
Cotton	Gossypium hirsutum	26
Dog	Canis familiaris	39
Fruit fly	Drosophil a melanogaster	4
Garden pea	Pisum sativum	7
House mouse	Mus muscul us	20
Human	Homo sapiens	23
Jimson weed	Datura stramonium	12
Pink bread mold	Neurospora crassa	7
Roundworm	Caenorhabditis elegans	6
Wheat	Triticum aestivum	21
Yeast	Saccharomyces cerevisiae	16
Zebrafish	Danio rerio	25



FIGURE 2.5 The stages comprising an arbitrary cell cycle. Following mitosis, cells enter the G1 stage of interphase, initiating a new cycle. Cells may become nondividing (G0) or continue through G1, where they become committed to begin DNA synthesis (S) and complete the cycle (G2 and mitosis). Following mitosis, two daughter cells are produced, and the cycle begins anew for both of them.



Mitosis Partitions Chromosomes into Dividing Cells



FIGURE 2.6 The time spent in each interval of one complete cell cycle of a human cell in culture. Times vary according to cell types and conditions.



Mitosis Partitions Chromosomes into Dividing Cells





Mitosis Partitions Chromosomes into Dividing Cells



FIGURE 2.7 Drawings depicting mitosis in an animal cell with a diploid number of 4. The events occurring in each stage are described in the text. Of the two homologous pairs of chromosomes, one pair consists of longer, metacentric members and the other of shorter, submetacentric members. The maternal chromosome and the paternal chromosome of each pair are shown in different colors. To the right of (f), a drawing of late telophase in a plant cell shows the formation of the cell plate and lack of centrioles. The cells shown in the light micrographs came from the flower of *Haemanthus*, a plant that has a diploid number of 8.









with metaphase I. Note that the combination of chromosomes in the cells produced following telophase II is dependent on the random alignment of each tetrad and dyad on the equatorial plate during metaphase I and metaphase II. Several other combinations, which are not shown, can also be formed. The events depicted here are described in the text.











Meiosis Is Critical to Sexual Reproduction in All Diploid Organisms



FIGURE 2.13 Alternation of generations between the diploid sporophyte (2n) and the haploid gametophyte (n) in a multicellular plant. The processes of meiosis and fertilization bridge the two phases of the life cycle. In angiosperms (flowering plants), like the one shown here, the sporophyte stage is the predominant phase.



Electron Microscopy Has Revealed the Physical Structure of Mitotic and Meiotic Chromosomes



FIGURE 2.14 Comparison of (a) the chromatin fibers characteristic of the interphase nucleus with (b) metaphase chromosomes that are derived from chromatin during mitosis.

Part (c) diagrams a mitotic chromosome, showing how chromatin is condensed to produce it. Part (a) is a transmission electron micrograph and part (b) is a scanning electron micrograph.