Science Unit 5: Genetics

 Genes are too small to see with the eye so a variety of models are used to understand them. Scientists from several disciplines have contributed to an understanding of genetics. Every kind of living thing reproduces and transfers genetic information to offspring. Organisms reproduce sexually and/or asexually. Genetic technology has important implications for moral decisions in our society. What are sexual and asexual reproduction? How is genetic information transferred to offspring? What are heterozygous and homozygous alleles? What are the pros and cons of genetic technology? How has our understanding of genetics changed as various scientists have made discoveries? Chromosomes are made of DNA, and pieces of DNA that code for traits are called genes. Some alleles are dominant and some are recessive. Offspring receive half of their chromosomes from each parent in sexual reproduction.
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Essential • Offspring receive all of their chromosomes from one parent in
Knowledge asexual reproduction.
 Genotype and phenotype are determined by the alleles present.
 Punnett squares are used by geneticists to predict the probability of
a given trait.
 Personal choices can affect others.
Environmental factors can affect traits.
Terms:
 allele, gene, DNA, chromosome, heterozygous,
homozygous, phenotype, genotype, dominant, recessive,
Vocabulary genetic, engineering, genetic trait, asexual reproduction,
sexual reproduction, Punnett squares, environmental
influences on traits
 Use Punnett squares to determine the probability of a given trait.
Essential Identify pros and cons of genetic engineering.
Skills • Design an argument using several types of evidence.
 Compare and contrast asexual and sexual reproduction.
 Explain a way environmental factors can affect traits.

Science Unit 5: Genetics

	Science
	A. Unifying Themes
	A2.Models
	Students use models to examine a variety of real-world
	phenomena from the physical setting, the living environment,
	and the technological world and compare advantages and
	disadvantages of various models.
	a. Compare different types of models that can be used to
	represent the same thing (including models of chemical
	reactions, motion, or cells) in order to match the purpose
	and complexity of a model to its use.
	b. Propose changes to models and explain how those changes
	may better reflect the real thing.
	C. The Scientific and Technological Enterprise
	C3.Science, Technology, and Society
	Students identify and describe the role of science and
	technology in addressing personal and societal challenges.
Related	a. Describe how science and technology can help address
Maine Learning	societal challenges including population, natural hazards,
Results	sustainability, personal health and safety, and environmental
	quality.
	b. Identify personal choices that can either positively or
	negatively impact society including population, ecosystem,
	sustainability, personal health, and environmental quality.
	C4.History and Nature of Science
	Students describe historical examples that illustrate how
	science advances knowledge through the scientists involved
	and through the ways scientists think about their work and the
	work of others.
	a. Describe how women and men of various backgrounds,
	working in teams or alone and communicating about their
	ideas extensively with others, engage in science,
	engineering, and related fields.
	b. Describe a breakthrough from the history of science that
	contributes to our current understanding of science.
	c. Describe and provide examples that illustrate that science is
	a human endeavor that generates explanations based on
	verifiable evidence that are subject to change when new
	evidence does not match existing explanations.

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	E. The Living Environment
	E4.Heredity and Reproduction
	Students describe the general characteristics and mechanisms
	of reproduction and heredity in organisms, including humans,
	and ways in which organisms are affected by their genetic traits.
Related	a. Explain that sexual reproduction includes fertilization that
Maine Learning	
Results	results in the inclusion of genetic information from each parent and determines the inherited traits that are part of
Results	•
	every cell.
	c. Compare the structures, systems, and interactions that allow
	single-celled organisms and multi-celled plants and animals,
	including humans, to defend themselves, acquire and use
	energy, self-regulate, reproduce, and coordinate movement.
Sample	 Design a timeline of significant contributions to our understanding
Lessons	of genetics.
And	 Research pros and cons of an aspect of genetic engineering.
Activities	Create a DNA model.
Sample	 Genetic engineering debate.
Classroom	DNA Extraction Lab.
Assessment	 Punnett square predictions.
Methods	
	Publications:
	 Kids Discover DNA magazines
	 <u>http://learn.genetics.utah.edu/</u>
	 <u>http://www.amnh.org/ology/?channel=genetics</u>
	 www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/photo51/
Sample	 <u>http://www.factmonster.com/spot/frankenfoods1.html</u>
Resources	 www.ornl.gov/sci/techresource/Human
	Genome/elsi/gmfood.shtml
	 www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/
	 <u>www.thetech.org/genetics/soomin/index.html</u>
	• <u>Videos:</u>
	 "Eyes of Nye Genetic Engineering" video
	 Designer Babies video