

Year 10 Biology Terms and Definitions

Genetics Terms	Definitions
Characteristic	Features of organisms e.g eye colour, leaf shape
Nucleus	Cell control centre containing chromosomes
Homozygous	Both copies of alleles are the same e.g. BB or bb
Chromosome	Thread -like structure in cell nucleus, made of DNA
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
Gene	Section of a chromosome that codes for a characteristic
Allele	An alternative/different form of a particular gene eg a recessive form or a dominant form.
Heterozygous	Two different alleles present e.g. Bb
Genotype	The genes an organism possesses
Phenotype	How the genes are expressed, i.e. what an organism looks like
Dominant	An allele that shows up in the phenotype if it is present in the genotype
Recessive	An allele that only shows up in the phenotype if it is homozygous in the genotype
Sex chromosome	X or Y chromosome
Variation	Differences in a particular characteristic of an organism which make each organism unique
Natural Selection	Process by which organisms which have favourable characteristics survive in a particular habitat and reproduce
Evolution	Change in the characteristics of an organism over time
Habitat	The place where an organism lives
Adaptation	Characteristics of an organism which enable it to survive in its particular habitat
Structural Adaptation	Adaptations which refer to the shape and size of the organism and how various parts of its body are put together

Functional Adaptation	Adaptations which refer to the workings of an organisms body
Behavioural Adaptation	Adaptations that are to do with how the organism behaves