Key Words

Genetics	The scientific study heredity.
Heredity	Passing of characteristics from parents to offspring.
Character	Heritable feature that varies among individuals. (i.e. eye color)
Trait	The variant of a character. (i.e. different amounts of pigmentation)
Allele	Alternative versions of traits. (i.e. blue or non-blue eyes)
Phenotype	Physical description of alleles. (Outward expression, chemical makeup or behavior.)
Genotype	The genetic makeup – the listing of the alleles.
F1 & F2 generations	The first and second generations, respectively. (Parental generation is labeled P.)
Dominant	The allele that is expressed – written as a capitalized letter.
Recessive	The allele that is masked (by the dominant) – written as a lowercase letter.
Homozygous	An organism with two identical alleles for a trait. (BB or bb)
Heterozygous	An organism with two different alleles for a trait. (Bb)
Punnett Square	A diagram to show the genotypes of possible offspring.
Carriers	An organism that has one recessive allele for a disorder, but doesn't have disorder.

Key Words

The Weirdos of Genetics (the ones that don't follow the basic roles)

Incomplete Dominance	Phenotype of a heterozygote is intermediate between phenotypes of 2 homozygotes.
Codominance	Heterozygote displays characteristics of both homozygotes. Neither allele masks the other.
Sex-linked Traits	Traits controlled by genes on sex chromosomes

Law's that Govern Inheritance

Mendel	Mendel's laws: 1.Law of dominance: When an organism has two different alleles for a given trait (is heterozygous), the allele that is expressed is said to be dominant. The allele whose expression is overshadowed is said to be recessive. 2.Law of segregation: When gametes are formed (via meiosis), the alleles that control the same trait separate from one another into different gametes. (Into different egg or sperm cells.) This process is random. 3.Law of independent assortment: Members of one gene pair separate from each other independently from members of other gene pairs. This process is random.