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## **Concepts of Genetics**

Ninth Edition

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## Chapter 2 Mitosis and Meiosis

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## **Chapter 2 Introduction**

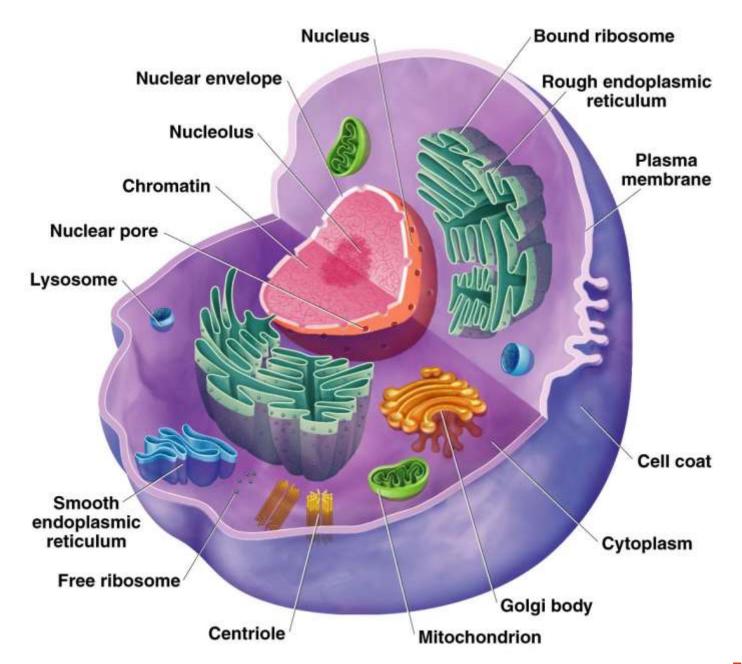
 In eukaryotes, transmission of genetic material from one generation of cells to the next involves mitosis and meiosis.

### **Chapter 2 Introduction**

- Meiosis leads to production of gametes.
- Mitosis leads to production of two cells, each with the same number of chromosomes as the parent cell.

## 2.1 Cell Structure Is Closely Tied to Genetic Function

 In eukaryotes, DNA resides in the nucleus and organelles reside in the cytoplasm (Figure 2.1).



- The cell is surrounded by a plasma membrane.
- Plant and bacterial cells also have a cell wall composed mainly of cellulose and peptidoglycan, respectively.

- DNA in the nucleus is complexed with an array of acidic and basic proteins into thin fibers.
- During nondivisional phases of the cell cycle, these fibers are uncoiled and dispersed into chromatin.
- Chromatin fibers coil and condense to form chromosomes during mitosis and meiosis.

- Centrioles in the cytoplasm are located in a specialized region called the centrosome.
- Centrioles organize spindle fibers for movement of chromosomes during meiosis and mitosis.

# 2.2 Chromosomes Exist in Homologous Pairs in Diploid Organisms

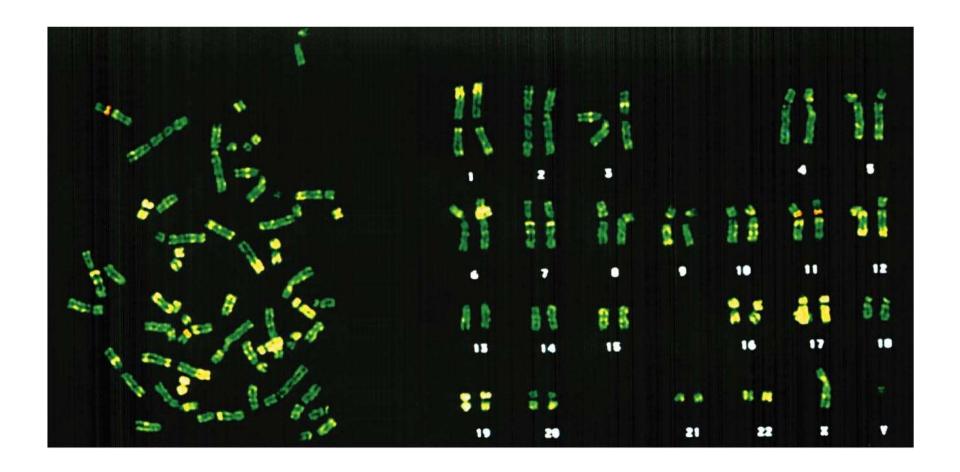
 In each homologous pair of chromosomes, one member is derived from each parent.

- Each diploid organism contains two copies of each gene.
- The members of each pair of genes need not be identical.
- Alternative forms of the same gene are called alleles.

Meiosis converts the diploid number (2n)
 of chromosomes to the haploid number
 (n).

- Gametes contain a haploid set of chromosomes.
- Fusion of two gametes at fertilization results in a diploid zygote.

 Sex-determining chromosomes are usually not homologous (Figure 2.4) yet behave as homologs in meiosis.



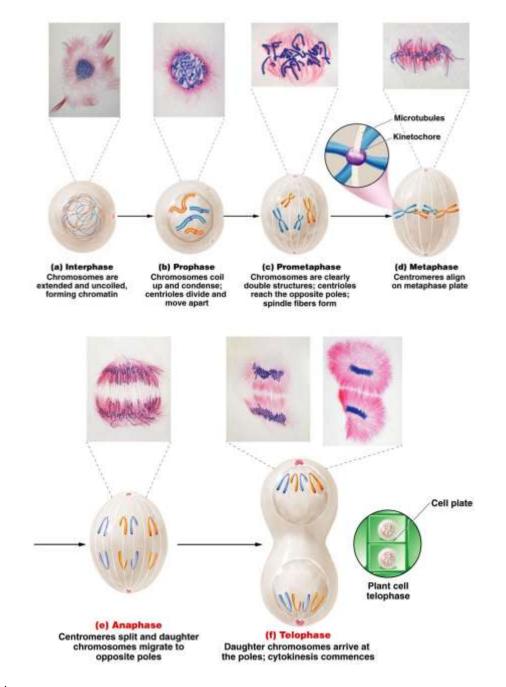
# 2.3 Mitosis Partitions Chromosomes into Dividing Cells

- Genetic material is partitioned to daughter cells during nuclear division (karyokinesis).
- Cytoplasmic division (cytokinesis) follows.

- The cell cycle is composed of interphase and mitosis.
- Interphase includes:
  - S phase, during which DNA is synthesized
  - Two gap phases (G1 and G2)
- G0 is a point in the G1 phase where cells withdraw from the cell cycle and enter a nondividing but metabolically active state.

- Mitosis has discrete stages:
  - prophase
  - prometaphase
  - metaphase
  - anaphase
  - telophase

(see Figure 2.7)



- During prophase, the centrioles divide and move apart, the nuclear envelope breaks down, and chromosomes condense and become visible.
- Sister chromatids are connected at the centromere.

• During **prometaphase**, the chromosomes move to the equatorial plane of the cell.

- During metaphase, the centromeres/chromosomes are aligned at the equatorial plane.
- Spindle fibers bound to kinetochores associated with centromeres are responsible for chromosome movement.

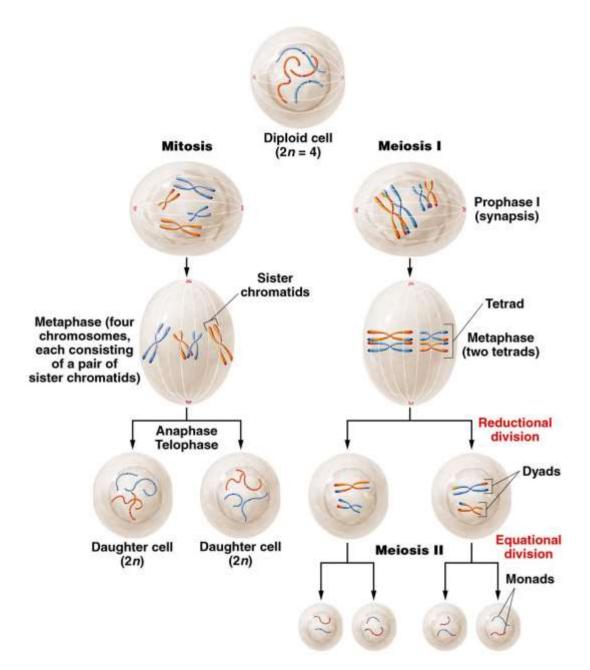
- Sister chromatids separate from each other and migrate to opposite poles during anaphase.
- The separated sister chromatids are called daughter chromosomes.

- The main events during telophase are:
  - cytokinesis
  - uncoiling of the chromosomes
  - re-formation of the nuclear envelope

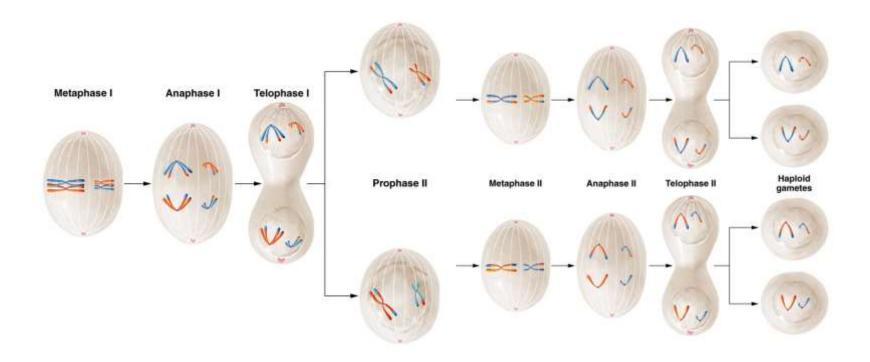
 Mitosis produces daughter cells with a full diploid complement of chromosomes. 2.4 Meiosis Reduces the Chromosome Number from Diploid to Haploid in Germ Cells and Spores

 Meiosis reduces the amount of genetic material by one-half to produce haploid gametes or spores containing one member of each homologous pair of chromosomes.

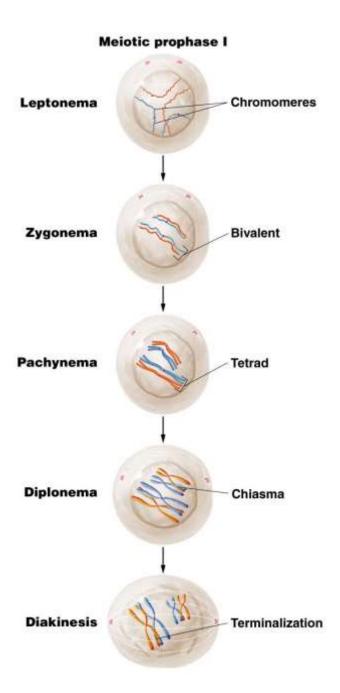
- Meiosis I is a reductional division.
- Meiosis II is an equational division (Figure 2.8).
- DNA synthesis occurs during interphase before the beginning of meiosis I but does not occur again before meiosis II.

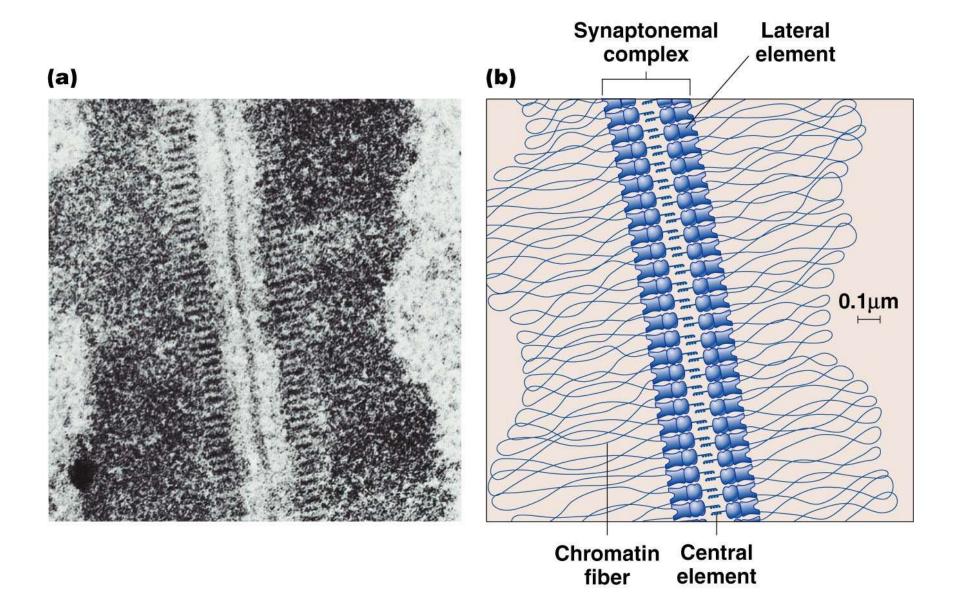


 Meiosis I and II each have prophase, metaphase, anaphase, and telophase stages (Figure 2.10).



- Prophase I has five substages, each including specific events (see Figure 2.9):
  - leptonema
  - zygonema
  - pachynema
  - diplonema
  - diakinesis
- At the completion of prophase I, the centromeres of each tetrad structure are present on the equatorial plate.





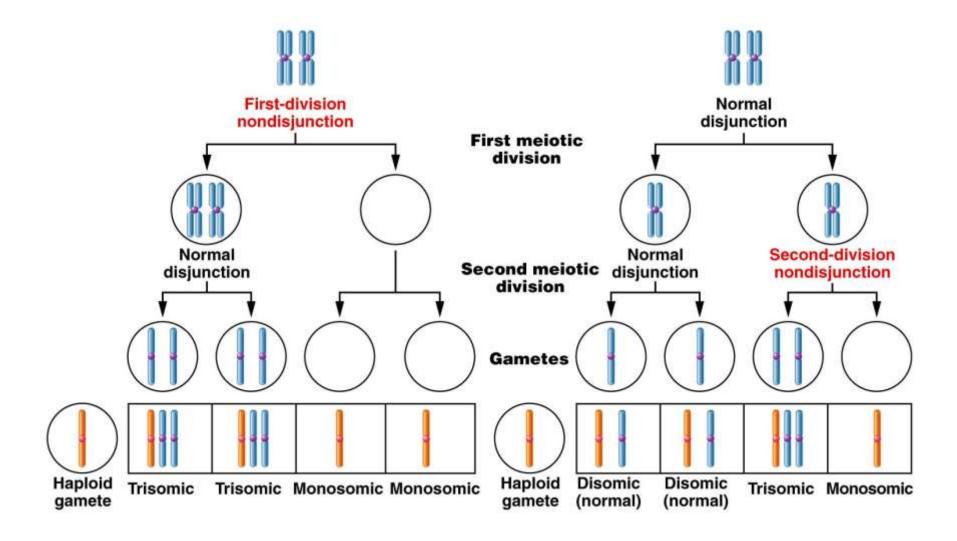
 Metaphase I, anaphase I, and telophase I are similar to those of mitosis.

- During meiosis I, the centromeres holding each pair of sister chromatids together do not divide.
- One pair of each tetrad is pulled toward each pole.

- During meiosis II, the sister chromatids in each dyad are separated to opposite poles.
- Each haploid daughter cell from meiosis II has one member of each pair of homologous chromosomes.

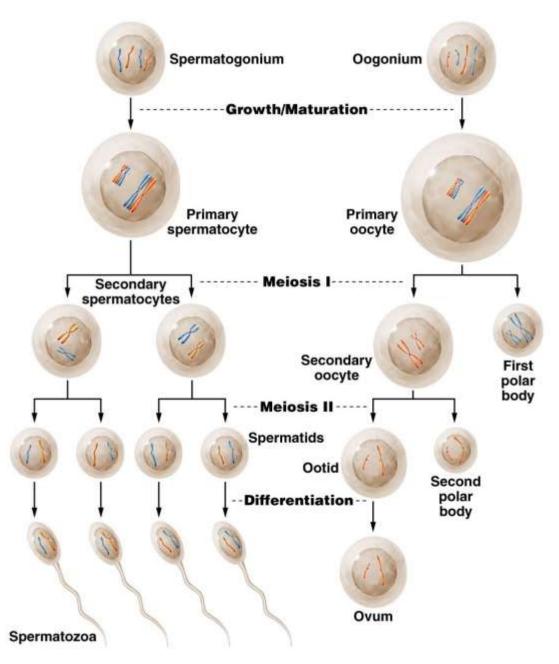
 Meiosis significantly increases the level of genetic variation due to crossing over during meiosis I.

 Nondisjunction during meiosis I or II leads to gametes with abnormal numbers of chromosomes and can lead to abnormal offspring.



# 2.5 The Development of Gametes Varies in Spermatogenesis Compared to Oogenesis

- Male gametes are produced by spermatogenesis in the testes (Figure 2.11).
- Female gametes are produced by oogenesis in the ovary.



 The primary spermatocyte undergoes meiosis I to produce two secondary spermatocytes, which undergo meiosis II to produce a total of four haploid spermatids.

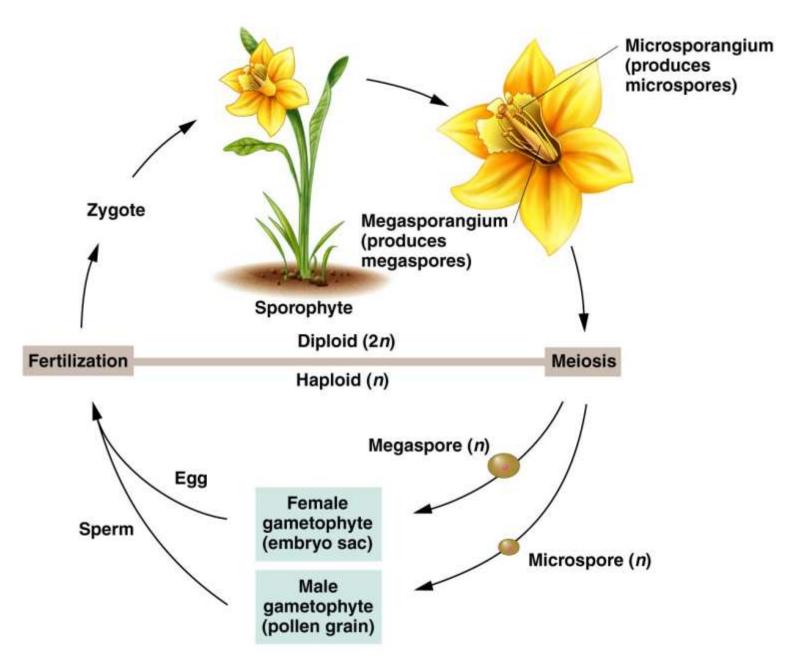
- During oogenesis, the four daughter cells do not receive equal cytoplasm.
- The cell that receives the most cytoplasm undergoes both meiosis I and II and develops into the ovum.
- The cytoplasm-deficient polar bodies produced at meiosis I and II do not undergo further division.

# 2.6 Meiosis Is Critical to the Successful Sexual Reproduction of All Diploid Organisms

- The mechanism of meiosis is the basis for the production of extensive genetic variation.
- Gametes receive either the maternal or the paternal chromosome from each homologous pair of chromosomes.
- An organism can produce 2<sup>n</sup> (where n represents the haploid number) combinations of chromosomes in gametes.

 Crossing over adds further genetic variation because chromosomes become a mixture of maternally and paternally derived DNA.

- In many fungi, the predominant stage of the life cycle is haploid.
- The life cycle in multicellular plants alternates between a diploid sporophyte stage and a haploid gametophyte stage (Figure 2.12).
- Meiosis and fertilization are the bridge between these two stages.



2.7 Electron Microscopy Has Revealed the Physical Nature of Mitotic and Meiotic Chromosomes

 Chromosomes are visible only during mitosis and meiosis because the chromatin fibers that make up chromosomes coil and condense in these stages (Figure 2.13).

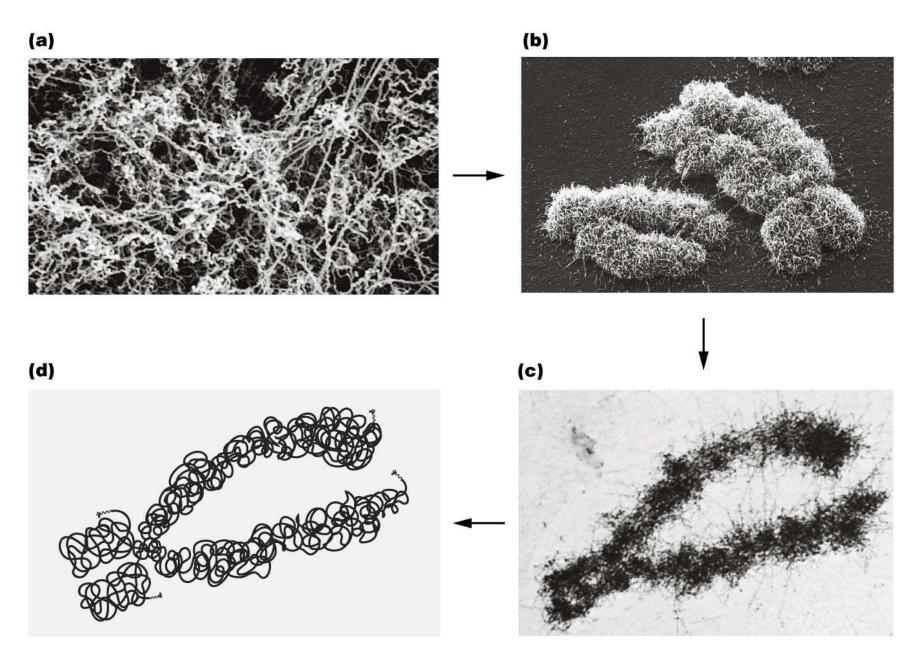
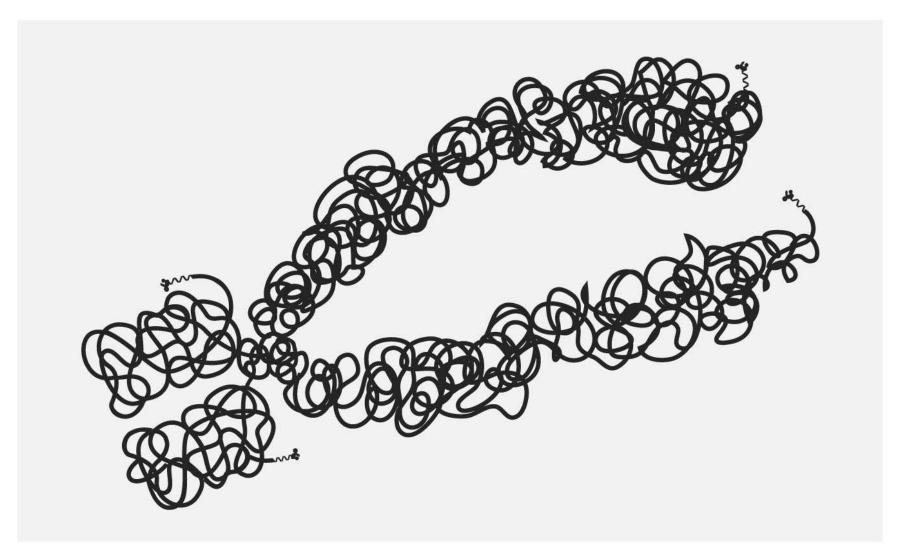


Figure 2.13

• Electron microscopic observations of mitotic chromosomes in varying states of coiling led to postulation of the folded-fiber model (**Figure 2.13d**).

### (d)



- The synaptonemal complex is found only in chromosomes of cells undergoing meiosis (Figure 2.14).
- It is the vehicle for pairing of homologs and their segregation during meiosis.

