

Mini-Lab: How is colorblindness transmitted?

Procedure:

1. Obtain 2 cups, 3 white beans, and one red bean.
2. Label one cup 'mother' and the other cup 'father.'
3. White beans represent X chromosomes. Put a dot on one white bean to represent the X-linked allele for colorblindness. Place this bean, plus one unmarked white bean in the 'mother' cup.
4. Mark a black dot on one more white bean. Place this bean, plus 1 red bean, into the cup labeled 'father.'
5. Close your eyes and pick one bean from each cup to represent how each parent contributes a sex chromosome to a fertilized egg.
6. In your data table, record the color of each bean and the sex of the individual who would carry this pair of chromosomes. Also record how many X-linked alleles the individual has. Put the beans back in the cups they came from.
7. Repeat steps 5-7 until you have completed 10 trials.

Data:

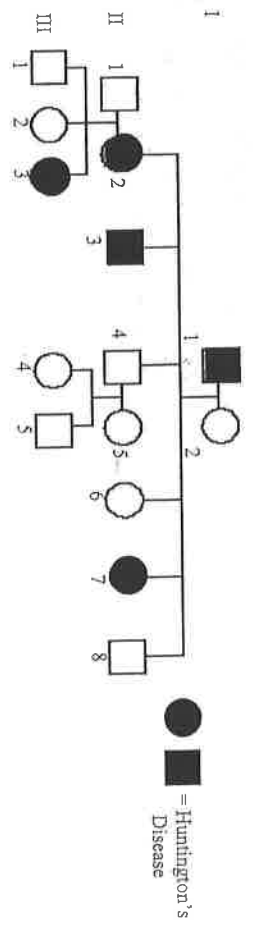
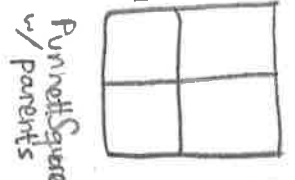
Trial	Colors	Sex of Individual	Number of X-linked Alleles	Genotype
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Total number of colorblind females: \_\_\_\_\_ Class total: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total number of colorblind males: \_\_\_\_\_ Class total: \_\_\_\_\_

Conclusions: (IN COMPLETE SENTENCES!)  
 1. How do the sex chromosomes keep the number of males and females roughly equal?

2. How many males and how many females were colorblind? Explain these results.

3. Explain the special pattern of inheritance for sex-linked genes. Why does this pattern exist?



Pedigree Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Which members of the family above are afflicted with Huntington's Disease? \_\_\_\_\_
2. There are no carriers for Huntington's Disease - you either have it or you don't. With this in mind, is Huntington's disease caused by a dominant or recessive trait? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many children did individuals I-1 and I-2 have? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many girls did II-1 and II-2 have? \_\_\_\_\_ How many have Huntington's Disease? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How are individuals III-2 and II-4 related? \_\_\_\_\_ I-2 and III-5? \_\_\_\_\_
6. The pedigree to the right shows a family's pedigree for Hitchhiker's Thumb. Is this trait dominant or recessive? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How are individuals III-1 and III-2 related? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What are the genotypes of the 2 individuals that have hitchhiker's thumb? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Name the 2 individuals that were definitely carriers of hitchhiker's thumb. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Is it possible for individual IV-2 to be a carrier? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_
12. The pedigree to the right shows a family's pedigree for colorblindness. Which sex can be carriers of colorblindness and not have it? \_\_\_\_\_
13. With this in mind, what kind of trait is colorblindness (use your notes)? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Why does individual IV-7 have colorblindness? \_\_\_\_\_
15. Why do all the daughters in generation II carry the colorblind gene? \_\_\_\_\_
16. Identify 2 generation IV colorblind males. \_\_\_\_\_

