Mutations



How did Cyclops from the X-Men get his superpowers?

He was born with the mutation

How did the Hulk and Spiderman get their superpowers?

The Hulk was exposed to gamma radiation and Spiderman was bitten by a radioactive spider

Learning about Mutations

Types of mutations and how they occur
How environmental factors influence mutations
Effects of mutations

Types of Mutations

OSmall-scale mutations

- Affect DNA at the molecular level by changing the normal sequence of nucleotide base pairs
- Occur during the process of DNA replications (either meiosis or mitosis)



Small-Scale Mutations



- 1. Substitution (or a "point" mutation")
 - Substitutions occur when a nucleotide is replaced with a different nucleotide in the DNA sequence
 - This type of mutation only affects the codon for a single amino acid



Small-Scale Mutations

- 2. Deletion (a "frameshift" mutation)
 - Deletion is the removal of a nucleotide from the DNA sequence
 - Removal of even a single nucleotide from a gene alters every codon after the mutation



Small-Scale Mutations



- 3. Insertion (a "frameshift" mutation)
 - Addition of a nucleotide to the DNA sequence
 - Addition of even a single nucleotide to a gene alters every codon after the mutation



• Affect entire portions of the chromosome

- Some large-scale mutations affect only single chromosomes, others occur across nonhomologous pairs
- Entire genes or sets of genes are altered rather than only single nucleotides of the DNA
- OMutations involving multiple chromosomes are likely to occur in meiosis, during the prophase I

ODeletion

- OSingle chromosome mutation
- The loss of one or more gene(s) from the parent chromosome



ODuplication

OSingle chromosome mutation

• The addition of one or more gene(s) that are already present in the chromosome



duplication

OInversion

- OSingle chromosome mutation
- The complete reversal of one or more gene(s) within a chromosome; the genes are present, but the order is backwards from the parent chromosome

Inversion



O Insertion

- Multiple chromosome mutation
- One or more gene(s) are removed from one chromosome and inserted into another nonhomologous chromosome
- Can occur by an error during the prophase I of meiosis when the chromosomes are swapping genes to increase diversity



Chromosome 4

O Translocation

- Multiple nonhomologous chromosome mutation
- Chromosomes swap one or more gene(s) with another chromosome



Chromosome 4

ONOndisjunction

- O Does not involve any errors in DNA replication or crossing-over
- Mutations occur during the anaphase and telophase when the chromosomes are not separated correctly into the new cells
- OCommon nondisjunctions are missing or extra chromosomes

Effects of Mutations

• The effects of mutations may range from nothing to the unviability of a cell

• All mutations affect the proteins that are created during protein synthesis, but not all mutations have a significant impact

Small-Scale Mutation Effects

1. Silent

 The nucleotide is replaced, but the codon still produces the same amino acid

2. Missense

• The codon now results in a different amino acid, which may or may not significantly alter the protein's function

3. Nonsense

 The codon now results in a "stop" command, truncating the protein at the location where the mutated codon is read; this almost always leads to a loss of protein functionality

Large-Scale Mutation Effects

- Effects of large-scale mutations are more obvious than those of small-scale mutations
- Duplication of multiple genes causes those genes to be overexpressed while deletions result in missing or incomplete genes
- Mutations that change the order of the genes on the chromosome—such as deletions, inversions, insertions and translocations—result in genes that are close together

Large-Scale Mutation Effects

• When certain genes are positioned closely together, they may encode for a "fusion protein"

• A fusion protein is a protein that would not normally exist but is created by a mutation in which two genes were combined

• The new proteins give cells a growth advantage, leading to tumors and cancer

Large-Scale Mutation Effects

Often, large-scale mutations lead to cells that are not viable

• The cell dies due to the mutation

Mutation Influences

Exposure to certain chemicals

 Carcinogenic chemicals may cause cancer
 Exposure to radiation
 Retroviruses
 Retroviruses such as HIV naturally experience

mutations at a much higher rate than other organisms

Engineering Connection

O Humans have been genetically modifying plants and animals for thousands of years

OExample: Breeding watermelons to be larger and have fewer seeds

O Example: Breeding chickens to have more white meat and more breast meat

Engineering Connection

• Engineers can directly manipulate the genetic code of plants and animals (controversial)

O Examples: Disease-resistant papaya, vitamin A-rich rice, and drought-tolerant corn

 Engineers and scientists are currently studying gene editing in the womb

OMay prevent the child from having diseases and disabilities

Examples of Notable Mutations

