**Allele** — A form of a gene. A gene actually consists of two forms, one on the chromosome

that came from the father, the other on the chromosome given by the mother.

**Aneuploidy** — Having extra or missing chromosomes.

**Chromosome** — A very long piece of DNA coiled around some proteins. Each chromosome

is a separate strand of DNA.

**DNA**— A very long chemical that can coil up to form a structure known as a chromosome.

**Dominant Allele** — An allele that almost always results in a specific trait, even if the person possesses only one copy

**Gene** — A segment of a strand of DNA that codes for how to make a particular molecule.

The molecules it produces will result in a particular trait. Different genes have different

lengths.

**Genotype** — The genetic identity of an individual

**Heterozygous** — Having two alleles (forms of the gene) that are different.

**Homozygous** — Having two alleles (forms of the gene) that are identical.

**Locus** — The location on the chromosome where the gene can be found. The plural of locus

is *loci*.

**Meiosis** — The type of cell division that produces cells with half the number of chromosomes

than the original cell. This is the process that creates sperm and egg cells.

**Non-disjunction** — An error in the process of chromosome sorting during cell division.

**Pedigree** — A pictorial representation of a family's health history

**Punnet Square** — A tool used to predict the genetic outcome of a mating

**Recessive Allele** — An allele that only results in a specific trait if the person possesses two copies of the recessive allele