### CHAPTER 16.1: GENES & VARIATION

Darwin had no idea **how** heritable traits pass from one generation to the next.

In the 1930's, evolutionary biologists connected Darwin and *Mendel*'s work to further understand natural selection.



#### What we already know about genetics & inheritance:

- Genes typically have two alleles
- Some genes are controlled by multiple alleles
- Some traits are *visible* (physical characteristics)
- Some traits are *invisible* (behavioral or biochemical)
- Traits can be homozygous dominant, heterozygous, or homozygous recessive







**Population**: a group of individual organisms of the same species which interbreed

<u>Gene Pool</u>: consists of all genes, including all the different alleles, that are present within a population.



# **Relative frequency:** the number of times that an allele occurs in a gene pool



### Sources of genetic variation

Mutation is any change in a sequence of DNA.

- Mistakes in replication of DNA
- result of radiation or chemicals in the environment.

Remember mutations do not always affect phenotype...

... but they can affect *fitness*, or ability to survive



<u>Population genetics</u> show how evolution occurs when there is a change in the relative frequency of alleles in a population.



If the relative frequency of the dominant allele in this mouse population **decreased**, what do you think would change in this population?

Population Genetics- Crash Course

## BREEDING BUNNIES LAB

# ACTIVITY



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