

Genetics Vocabulary

Biology

The terms every genetics question assumes you know.

The core definitions.

Term	Means
Gene	A sequence coding for a polypeptide
Allele	A variant form of a gene
Locus	The gene's position on a chromosome
Genotype	The alleles an organism carries
Phenotype	The observable characteristics
Homozygous	Two identical alleles
Heterozygous	Two different alleles
Dominant	Expressed in the heterozygote
Recessive	Masked in the heterozygote

Phenotype is genotype plus environment. Identical twins have identical genotypes and never identical phenotypes.