

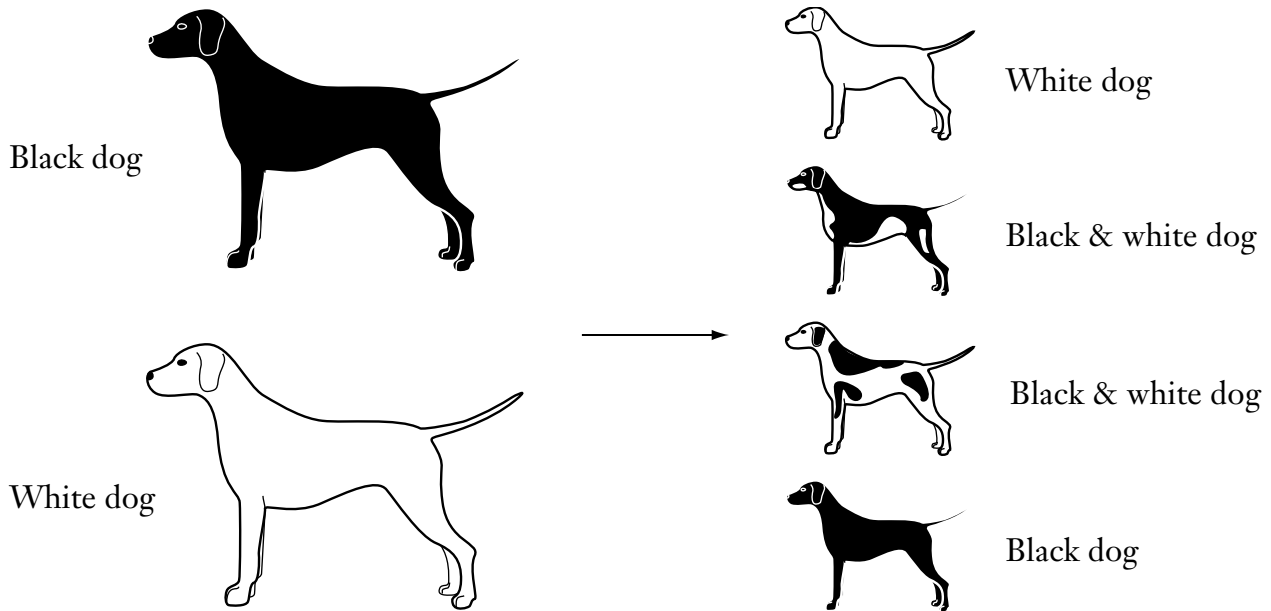
# CHAPTER 12 MENDEL AND MEIOSIS

## Get the Big Picture

What would the world be like if there were no meiosis? Think about it. Meiosis lets the genetic information from one cell combine with the genetic information from another cell to make a new and different cell. Without meiosis, all cells and organisms would be the same.

Gregor Mendel observed the results of meiosis for many years before he understood what he was seeing. He observed that tall plants came from short plants, wrinkled peas came from smooth peas, and much more. The process of the passing on of traits that results in a variety of offspring in each new generation is called **heredity**.

Study the picture and answer the questions.



1. What is heredity? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Why is meiosis important to the variety of life? \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. Are you the product of meiosis or mitosis? How can you tell? \_\_\_\_\_  
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