

## **Meiosis**

**Asexual reproduction does NOT involve the union of two cells**

**Higher organisms that reproduce sexually, need to have a special form of mitosis called meiosis take place**

**also called "*reduction division*" since the number of chromosomes in the sex cells is reduced by 1/2**

**in higher organisms there are two types of cells:**

***somatic* (body) cells**

***reproductive* (sex) cells**

**meiosis is necessary so that when the male and female cells unite to form what is called a '*zygote*' it receives the correct number of chromosomes**

**meiosis itself consists of two stages, meiosis I and meiosis II**

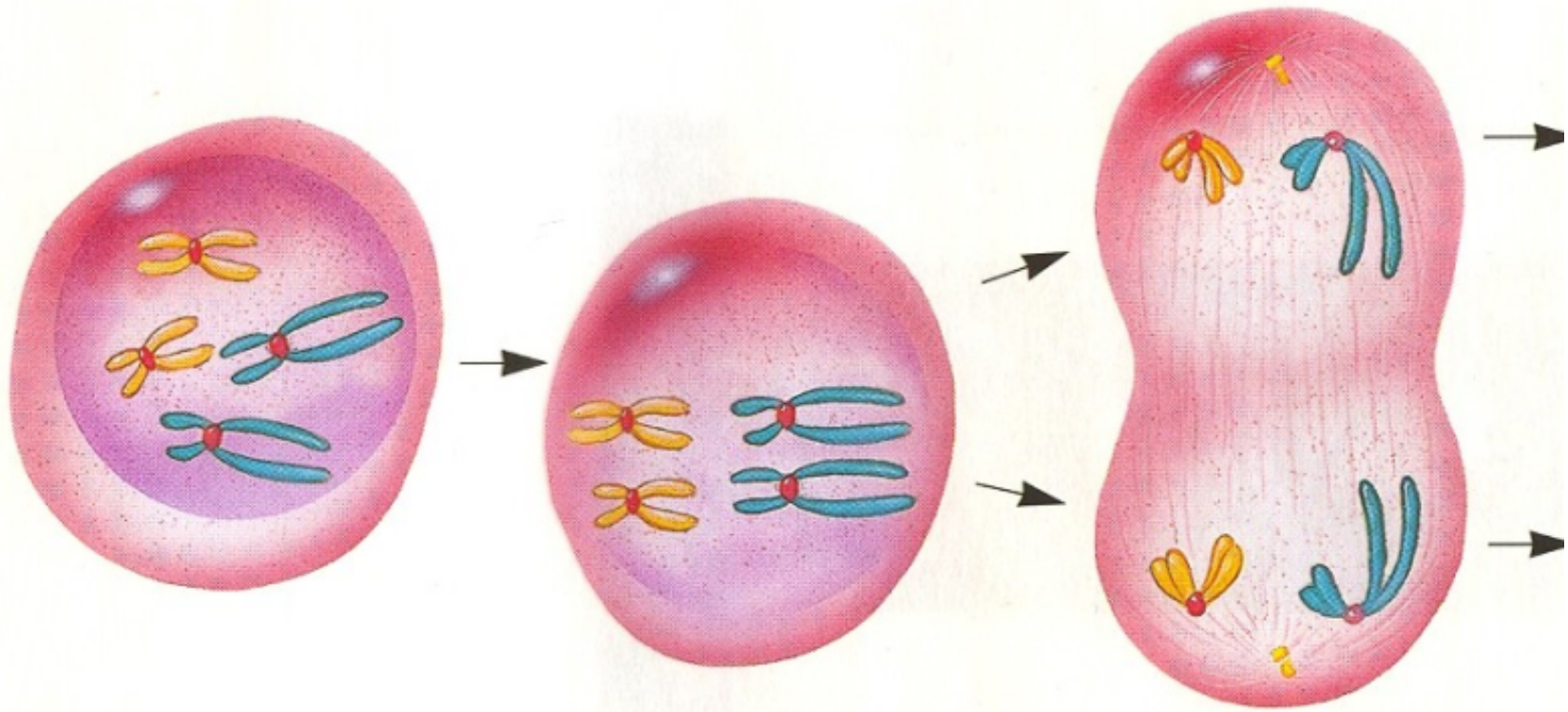
**1st stage reduces the number of chromosomes**

**2nd stage separates them into 4 sex cells**

**chromosomes are organised during the first stage into homologous pairs**

**each homologue contains one allele for each trait**

# Meiosis I



# Meiosis II

