

## 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

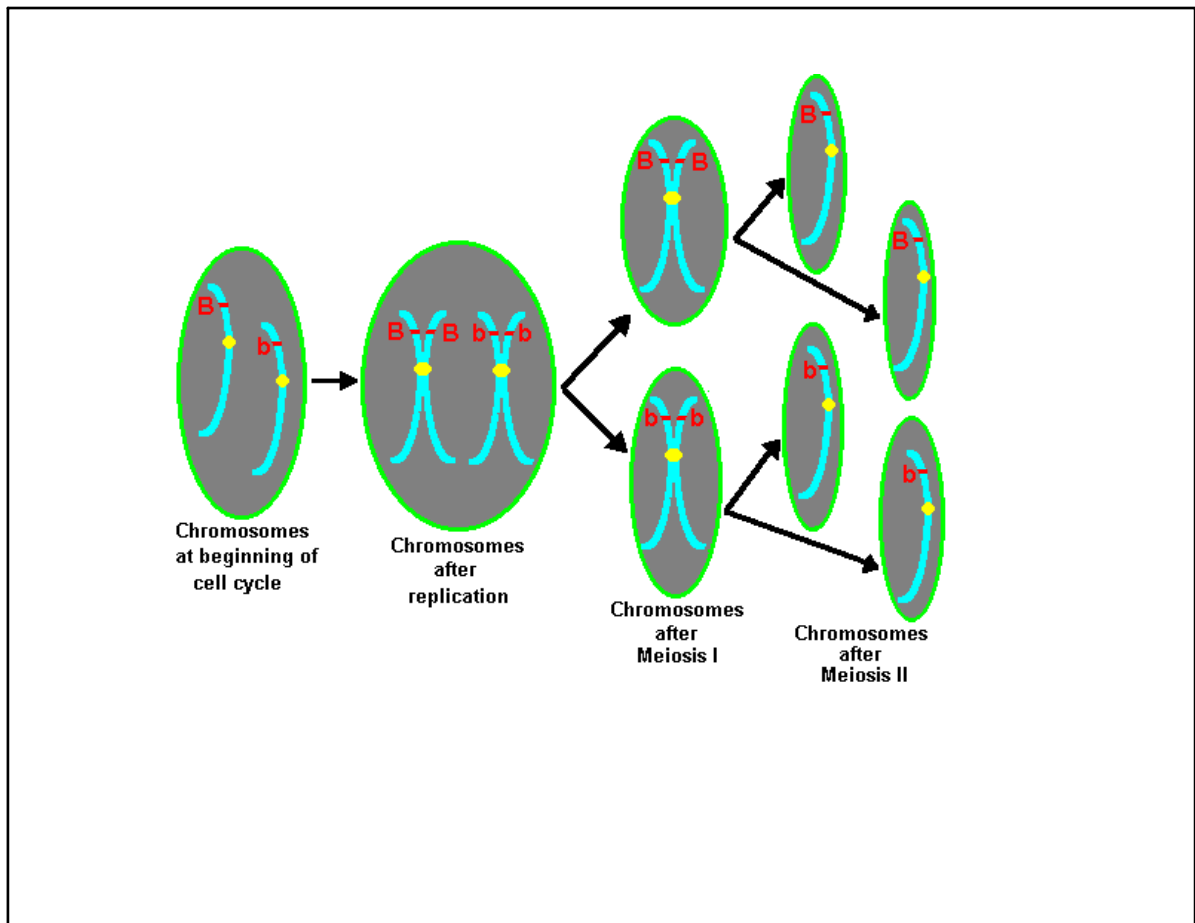
meiosis itself consists of two stages, meiosis I and meiosis II

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

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## Meiosis Web Resources

 [http://wps.prenhall.com/esm\\_freeman\\_biosci\\_1/0,6452,498784-,00.html](http://wps.prenhall.com/esm_freeman_biosci_1/0,6452,498784-,00.html)

 <http://www.johnkyrk.com/meiosis.html>

 <http://www.maxanim.com/genetics/Stages%20of%20Meiosis/Stages%20of%20Meiosis.htm>

 [http://www.biostudio.com/d\\_%20Meiosis.htm](http://www.biostudio.com/d_%20Meiosis.htm)

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