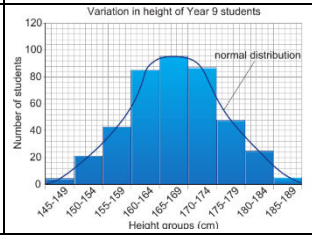
9A Genetics and Evolution

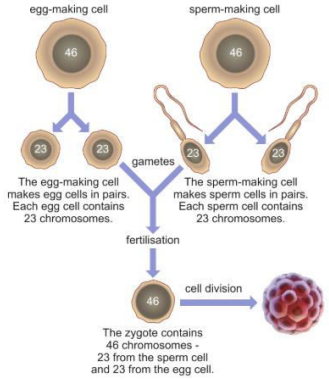
1. Environmental Variation

Environment	An organisms surroundings - affected by physical environmental factors and living organisms.
Characteristics	The features of an organism.
Variation	The differences between characteristics of organisms.
Environmental Variation	Variation caused by an organism's environment *e.g. hairstyle*
Continuous Variation	Variation that can have any value between two points *e.g. height, mass*
Discontinuous Variation	Variation that can only have a value from a limited set of values *e.g. eye colour*
Classification	Sorting organisms into groups.
Species	The smallest group an organism is classified into. Members of the same species can reproduce together and produce fertile offspring.

2. Inherited Variation

Inherit	Offspring / children get a mixture of characteristics from their parents.
Inherited Variation	The variation in characteristics inherited from parents *e.g. blood group*
Genetic Information	The instructions for inherited characteristics stored inside the nuclei of cells.
Gametes	Sex cells (sperm and egg)
Sexual Reproduction	Two gametes fuse together during fertilisation.
Zygote	Fertilised egg cell formed during fertilisation. Contains genetic material from both parents.
Normal Distribution	Bell shape usually given by plotting characteristics that show continuous variation.
Normal Distribution Example	

3. DNA

Watson and Crick	Used data from themselves and other scientists to build the first model of DNA in 1953.
Rosalind Franklin	Took x-ray images of DNA and showed it was a spiral structure.
Chromosomes	DNA is found in structures called chromosomes inside nuclei of cells.
Human DNA	Human cell nuclei contain 46 chromosomes (23 pairs).
Genes	A gene is a section of DNA /a chromosome.
Sex Chromosomes	Determines sex of offspring. Girls have two X chromosomes, boys have an X and a Y.
Cell Division	The splitting of a parent cell to form two daughter cells.
Zygote Formation	

4. Genes and Extinction

Adaptations	Features of an organism to help it survive in its habitat.
Ecosystem	All the physical environmental factors and living organisms in a habitat.
Endangered	When a species is at risk of becoming extinct.
Extinct	When a species no longer exists.
Competition	Organisms fighting over the resources that are available.
Native	A species that has always lived in an area.
Squirrels	Red squirrels are native to the UK and grey squirrels came to the UK in the 1870's. Grey squirrels can store more fat to survive the winter and can digest unripe acorns unlike red squirrels. This has meant grey populations have increased leaving less food for red squirrels.
Biodiversity	The number of different species within an area.
Preserving Biodiversity	Banning hunting, set up nature reserves, start breeding programmes and gene banks.
Gen Banks	Storing parts of organisms (seeds, gametes etc.) to grow if they become extinct.

5. Natural Selection

Natural Selection	A change in the environment causes certain characteristics to be 'selected' to pass on to the next generation.
Peppered Moths	Most peppered moths were pale in the 1850's. Then factories started churning out soot, turning trees black. Birds could now easily spot the pale moths to eat them. More black moths survived and reproduced, increasing their numbers. This is an example of natural selection.
Evolution	A change over time in the characteristics of organisms.
New Species	As populations evolve they can become new species.
Darwin's Theory of Evolution	Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace developed a hypothesis that natural selection causes evolution.

Lesson	Memorised?
1. Environmental Variation	
2. Inherited Variation	
3. DNA	
4. Genes and Extinction	
5. Natural Selection	