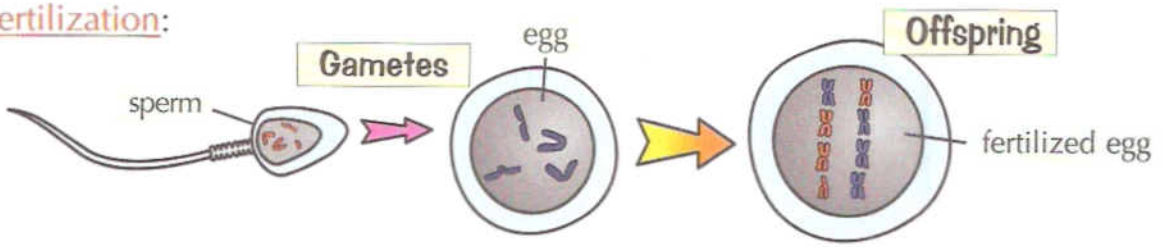
Sexual and Asexual Reproduction

Sexual reproduction

Reproduction and development are necessary for the continuation of any species. Remember these important diagrams and definitions...

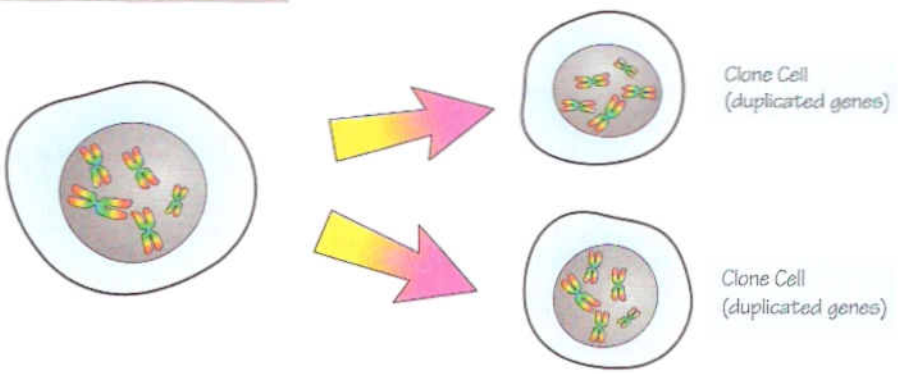
Fertilization:



SEXUAL REPRODUCTION involves the fusion of male and female gametes (sex cells). Because there are TWO parents, the offspring contains a mixture of their parent's genes.

The offspring's outward characteristics will result from the mixture of the two sets of chromosomes, so it will inherit features from both parents. This is why sexual reproduction produces more variation than asexual reproduction.

Asexual reproduction



In ASEXUAL REPRODUCTION there is only ONE parent, and the offspring therefore have exactly the same genes as the parent (that is, they're clones).

This is because all the cells in both parent and offspring were produced by ordinary cell division, so they must all have identical genes in their cell nuclei. Asexual reproduction therefore produces no variation. Some plants reproduce asexually, for example, potatoes, strawberries, and daffodils.

Now that I have your undivided attention...

You need to learn the definition of sexual reproduction and the sequence of diagrams, and also the definition of asexual reproduction. Now cover the page and scribble down the two definitions and sketch out the sequence of diagrams — you don't need to be neat — just find out if you've learned it.