

Diluting Your DNA

Materials Per Student: penny, Student Handout

Procedure:

1. Warm up by writing the 3 points at the top of the Handout.
2. Do a short reading from your book, if desired.
3. Begin the activity-
 - a. Have students choose a letter of the alphabet to represent themselves and write it 10x on the blanks next to roman numeral "I."
 - b. Next to the % sign, write "100", since you are 100% you.
 - c. Assign a different letter to your spouse and write it 10x.
 - d. Write "Heads" at the top of your column and "Tails" above your spouse's.
 - e. Flip a penny to see who's #1 trait (height) your child will get.
 - f. Flip it again for the next 9 traits.
 - g. Next to the % sign, record what % of your DNA is in your child.
 - h. Short discussion- How'd everyone's first generation turn out?
4. Continue-
 - a. Pick a new letter to represent your child's spouse's DNA.
 - b. Let's see how your grandchild turns out- flip a coin 10x, once for each trait. In this game, once a trait is not selected, it's out for good!
 - c. Record the percent of your DNA in your grandchild (~20-30%).
 - d. Repeat for your Great-Grandchild, then your Great-Great-Grandchild.
5. Do the questions on the back with the class. Work slowly.