

## Sex Determination Curriculum Activities

Curriculum activities to complement the November 2001 HHMI Holiday Lecture “The Meaning of Sex: Genes and Gender”

**By Angela M. Hejl, PhD, Yankton High School, Yankton, SD**

### Specific activities:

- ?? Show a portion or all of *Deciphering the Language of Sex*. Assign students to groups of 3-4 and give each group a large sheet of newsprint or poster board. Have them draw a Venn diagram of two intersecting rings. In the intersection they should list characteristics that both clonal and sexual reproduction have in common. In the nonintersecting portion of one ring list advantages of clonal reproduction and in the nonintersecting portion of the other ring list advantages of sexual reproduction. They are expected to use other resources (textbook, reference books in the classroom) in addition to the DVD presentation to complete their diagrams.
- ?? Use pairs of vegetables (as in *Deciphering the Language of Sex*) as a lab activity to help students understand the concepts of meiosis, genetic recombination, mutation, etc.
- ?? After watching *Sexual Evolution from X to Y*, students will develop a list of differences between the X and Y chromosome in humans, and make a comparison of other mechanisms of gender determination in the animal kingdom.