**Psychology Key Term List 4 Genetics**

Copy these terms on index cards to use as flash cards.

1. **Behavior genetics**-the study of genetic influences on behavior.
2. **Genes**-units of heredity that make up the chromosomes; a segment of DNA
3. **Chromosomes**-Threadlike structures made of DNA molecules that contain the genes.
4. **DNA**-(deoxyribonucleic acid) a complex molecule containing the genetic information that makes up the chromosomes.
5. **Genome**-the complete instructions for making an organism, consisting of all the genetic material in its chromosomes.
6. **Mutation**-random errors in gene replication that lead to a change in the individual’s genetic code; the source of all genetic diversity.
7. **Evolutionary psychology**-the study of the evolution of behavior and the mind, using principles of natural selection.
8. **Natural selection**-the principles that, among the range of inherited trait variations, those contributing to survival will most likely be passed on to succeeding generations.
9. **Identical twins**-twins who develop from a single fertilized egg that splits in two, creating two genetically identical organisms.
10. **Fraternal twins**-twins who develop from separate eggs. They are genetically no closer than any other brothers and sisters, but they share a fetal environment.
11. **Heritability**-the proportion of variation among individuals that we can attribute to genes.