

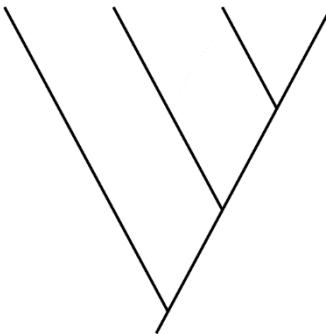
2018 AP® BIOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

A researcher studying adaptation in bears sequenced the nuclear gene encoding a lysosomal trafficking protein (LYST) in polar bears, brown bears, black bears, and panda bears. There are seven inferred amino acid substitutions that are found only in polar bears. Mutations that cause similar substitutions in the human LYST protein are associated with Chediak-Higashi syndrome, an autosomal recessive condition in which pigment is absent from the hair and eyes. The researcher used the inferred amino acid sequences to build the distance matrix shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1. AMINO ACID DIFFERENCES IN THE
LYST PROTEIN AMONG BEAR SPECIES

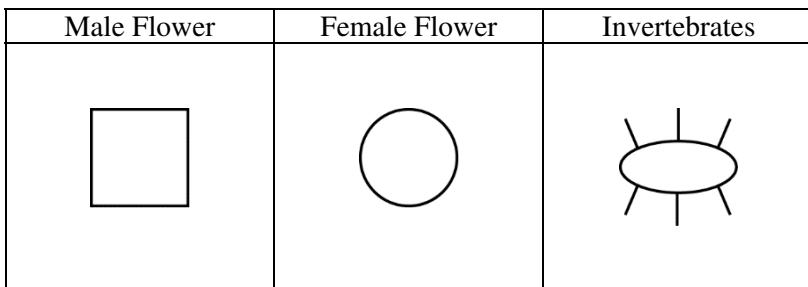
	Panda	Black	Brown	Polar
Panda	—			
Black	33	—		
Brown	34	1	—	
Polar	40	7	8	—

- Use the phylogenetic tree in Figure 1 to **estimate** the age in hundreds of thousands of years of the most recent common ancestor of all brown bears. **Identify** the population of brown bears to which polar bears are most closely related based on the mitochondrial DNA sequence comparison. **Identify** two populations whose positions could be switched without affecting the relationships illustrated in the phylogenetic tree.
- Construct** a cladogram on the template to represent a model of the evolutionary relatedness among the bear species based on the differences in LYST protein sequences (Table 1). **Circle** the position on the cladogram that represents the out-group.
- A student claims that mitochondrial DNA sequence comparisons provide a more accurate phylogeny of bear species than do LYST protein sequence comparisons. **Provide ONE piece of reasoning** to support the student’s claim.
- A researcher genetically engineers a mouse strain by deleting the mouse *lyst* gene and replacing it with the polar bear *lyst* gene. **Predict** the most likely difference in phenotype of the transgenic mouse strain compared to the wild-type mouse strain. **Justify** your prediction.
- Describe** how the mutation in the *lyst* gene became common in the polar bear population. If the *lyst* gene were the only determinant of fur color, **predict** the percent of white offspring produced by a mating between a polar bear and a brown bear.

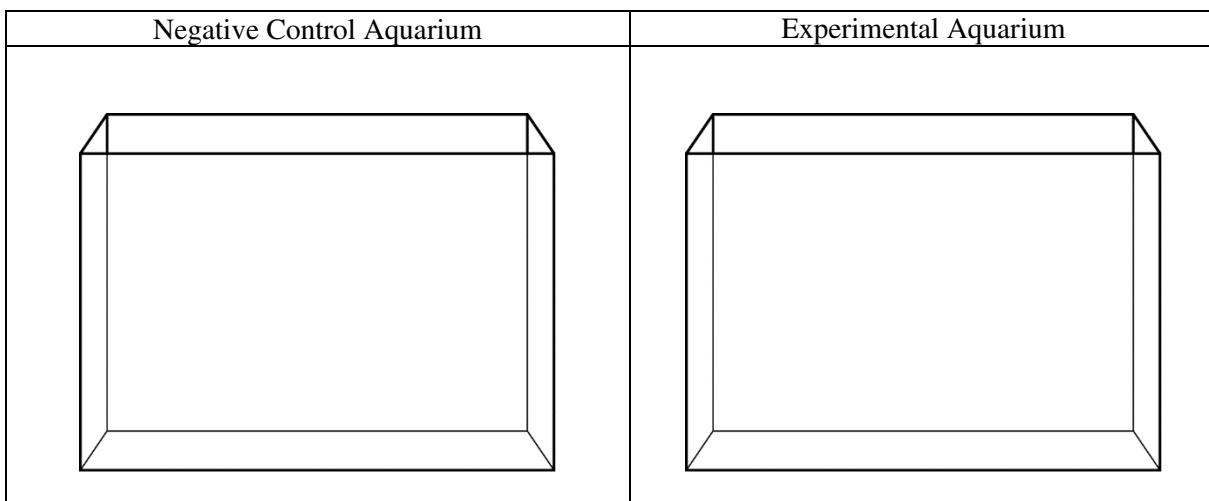


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3. Seagrasses are aquatic plants that reproduce sexually. Male seagrass flowers produce sticky pollen that is carried by circulating water to female flowers, resulting in fertilization. A researcher claims that mobile aquatic invertebrates can also transfer pollen from male to female flowers in the absence of circulating water. To investigate this claim, the researcher set up aquariums to model the possible interactions between the invertebrates and seagrasses.
- (a) Use the symbols below and the template aquariums to demonstrate the experimental design for testing the researcher's claim that mobile aquatic invertebrates can pollinate seagrass in the absence of circulating water. **Draw** the appropriate symbols in the negative control aquarium AND the experimental aquarium. Do not use any symbol more than once in the same aquarium.



- (b) **Identify** the dependent variable in the experiment. **Predict** the experimental results that would support the researcher's claim that mobile aquatic invertebrates can also transfer pollen from male to female flowers in the absence of circulating water.



**AP® BIOLOGY
2018 SCORING GUIDELINES**

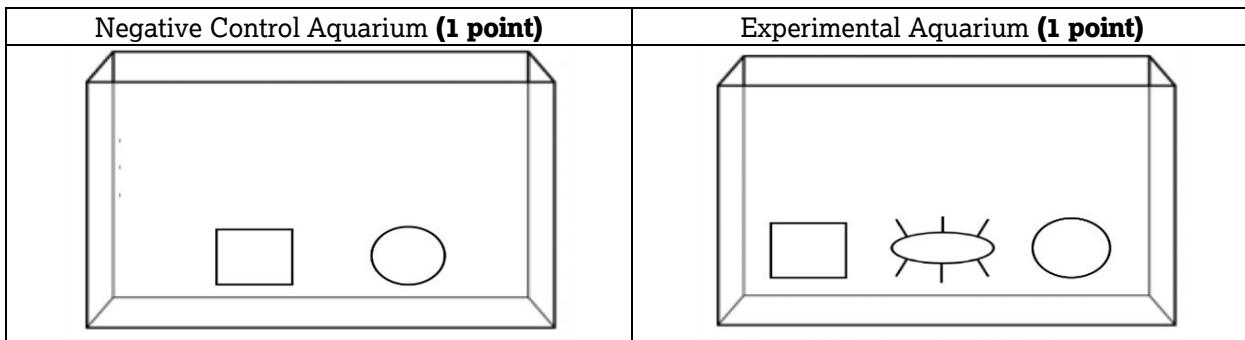
Question 3

Seagrasses are aquatic plants that reproduce sexually. Male seagrass flowers produce sticky pollen that is carried by circulating water to female flowers, resulting in fertilization. A researcher claims that mobile aquatic invertebrates can also transfer pollen from male to female flowers in the absence of circulating water. To investigate this claim, the researcher set up aquariums to model the possible interactions between the invertebrates and seagrasses.

- (a) Use the symbols below and the template aquariums to demonstrate the experimental design for testing the researcher's claim that mobile aquatic invertebrates can pollinate seagrass in the absence of circulating water. **Draw** the appropriate symbols in the negative control aquarium AND the experimental aquarium. Do not use any symbol more than once in the same aquarium.

Male Flower	Female Flower	Invertebrates

Drawing (2 points)



- (b) **Identify** the dependent variable in the experiment. **Predict** the experimental results that would support the researcher's claim that mobile aquatic invertebrates can also transfer pollen from male to female flowers in the absence of circulating water.

Identification (1 point maximum)	Prediction (1 point maximum)
Number/presence of pollen grains on female flowers OR pollination	More pollen grains transferred/pollination seen in experimental aquarium
Number/presence of fertilized plants/flowers OR fertilization	More fertilized plants/flowers/fertilization seen in experimental aquarium
Number/presence of seed/fruit/offspring produced OR reproduction	More seeds/fruits/offspring produced/reproduction in experimental aquarium