

Environmental Factors that Cause Mutations

Activity

Part I: Risk Assessment

Mutations that are both inherited and caused by damage through a person's lifetime can be a contributing factor to the development of cancer. Different environmental factors that you can sometimes control can lead to these mutations as well. Your teacher will give you different envelopes from which you will draw cards and determine which type of lifestyle risks you are taking with your health.

Risk Factor	Description of Card	Risk Score
A. Exercise		
B. Smoking		
C. Weight		
D. Diet		
E. Sun exposure		
	Total Risk Score	

1. Highlight or circle your lifestyle risk for developing cancer in the table on the right.
2. Which risk factor do you believe puts you at most risk for developing cancer?

3. How could you decrease your chances of developing cancer?

Risk	Score
High Risk	17-31
Medium Risk	7-16
Minimum Risk	0-6



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Activity, continued

Part II: Research Project

Your teacher will assign you a specific environmental factor that can cause different types of mutations. You will research this environmental factor and be ready to share with the class. Use the following questions to guide your research and record the answers below.

1. Which environmental factor are you researching?

2. Provide a brief description of how your environmental factor causes mutations.

3. What type of disease(s) does this mutation cause, if any?

4. How can you limit your exposure to this environmental factor?
