Making Babies

1. The activity requires:
    - Construction paper
    - Scissors
    - Glue and tape
    - Yarn and/or pipe cleaners for hair
    - Colored pencils
2. Run off enough student instruction sheets for each student.
3. Run off enough mother and father traits so each child will get one. Cut the strips apart and put them in a container. I use a 1000 ml beaker.
4. Run off enough of the mutation strips so that each student gets one. I put them in a small beaker.
5. Randomly pass out the Punnett Square sheets. There are 4 so that the variations are endless.
6. Students fill in the Punnett Squares based on the genotype their parents provided.
7. Once they are filled in the students go to the Mutation container. Have them mark a big M over the Punnett Square they got a mutation for.
8. The 3 strips are attached to the back of the Punnett Square worksheet.
9. They then gather the materials for their “baby” and start construction.
10. Templates for the head shape will help speed things along. I bought large punches (~3”) from JoAnns or Michaels to make the cutting speedy.
11. They then assemble and draw their child according to the traits.
12. I have large 12 x 12’ paper stacks from Joann’s they can choose blankets from.
13. They fill out a birth certificate to be handed in with the child. I create one at: https://www.123certificates.com/ and then print 2 to a sheet to make them smaller.
14. Then I dedicate a wall or bulletin board to our “nursery” where the babies are posted.
15. Looking at all the babies lets you see which traits show up more often, which are rare, how mutations occur randomly, etc.
16. I assess how they fill out the Punnett Square sheet based on the strips they chose and how the baby matches those criteria.