

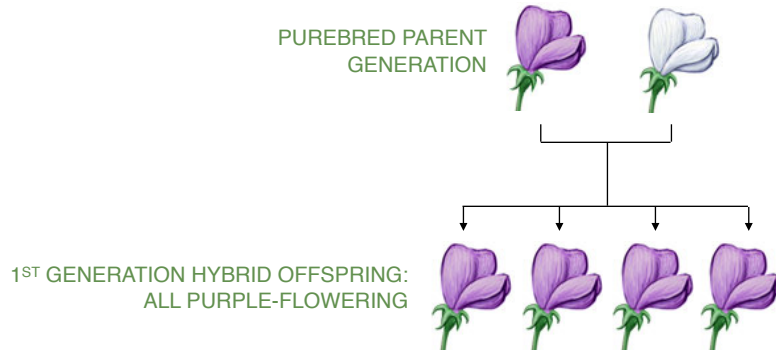
**DATELINE: 1866, BRÜNN, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY:**

## PEA PLANTS LEAD TO SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH

A monk named Gregor Mendel has just published a paper entitled "Experiments on Plant Hybridization," which he read last year at two meetings of the Natural History Society of Brünn. Despite a polite reception, no one seems to have the least idea what he is talking about, and it will probably be several decades before he receives his rightful recognition as the father of modern genetics. Said one reader, "Huh?" Mendel's unusual statistical



What would you guess happened when Mendel crossed purebred purple-flowering pea plants with purebred white-flowering pea plants? Well, in the first **generation** of **hybrids** (meaning **offspring** from different kinds of parents), all of the flowers were purple. The white flowers had completely disappeared!



A similar thing happened with stem length and with pod shape. In each case, the first **generation** of **hybrids** showed only one of the **traits**.

