

Asexual Reproduction

- Asexual reproduction is reproduction that involves only 1 parent
- All of the offspring that are produced are genetically identical to the parent because the parent makes an exact copy of itself
 - o i.e. the offspring is a clone of the parent
- In some cases, asexual reproduction can produce a lot of identical individuals quickly
 - o E.g. in a 12 hour period a single bacterium can divide to produce millions of copies of itself
- If the organism's environment doesn't change much, this can be a huge advantage
- However, it can also be a disadvantage because any factor that negatively affects the parent will also negatively affect ALL of the offspring
- Here are some specific types of asexual reproductions that we will be looking at more closely:

① Binary fission - organism divides into 2 new organisms
eg) amoebas, bacteria

② Budding - a bud forms on the original organism, grows, and eventually breaks away to become its own organism.
eg) hydra, yeast, sponges