**How Do Mutations Impact Genetic Sequences?**

**I. Introduction**

Mutations involve a physical change to genetic material that results in the abnormal encoding of protein sequences. The impact of these changes can be beneficial, insignificant, or detrimental. Mutations are changes to the DNA. When the DNA is transcribed (*converting DNA into mRNA*), the mRNA produced is altered. When that mRNA is translated (*converting mRNA into amino acids*), the resulting protein may or may not be altered.

In this lab you will complete mRNA and protein sequences based on the information provided. You will be given a starting mRNA sequence, its associated amino acids, and a mutation rule. Use these to construct a new mRNA sequence, and compare the original and mutated sequences to see the impact of the mutation.

**II. Procedure**

1. Go to the following website :

<http://glencoe.mheducation.com/sites/dl/free/0078802849/383936/BL_26.html>

2. Click on the **Mutation Guide** to answer the following questions.

2.1. How often do mutations occur?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2.2. How many amino acids can be in a protein sequence?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2.3. Identify how each mutation occurs.

Point Mutation : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Silent Mutation : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Frameshift Mutation : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2.4. List the start and stop codons.

Start : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Stop : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Click off the **Mutation Guide** using the “X” in the upper right corner.

4. Click the **Mutate Button** to see mRNA and protein sequences of amino acids. A mutation

rule will appear. Record the mRNA sequence and Protein Sequence below.

mRNA : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Protein: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. Follow the instructions in the **Mutation Rule** (lower left) to create the mRNA and protein

sequences for the mutated sequence. Drag the nucleotides to their new locations.

Mutation Rule : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. Use the **Genetic Code Chart** to determine the new amino acid sequence.

7. Drag the amino acid labels to their appropriate locations.

8. Record the new mRNA sequence and new Protein Sequence below.

mRNA : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Protein: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. Identify the type of mutation that occurred. Refer to the **Mutation Guide** if necessary.

Type Of Mutation : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10. Click the **Mutate Button** to get a new sequence of mRNA. Repeat steps 4 – 9 for six more

strands of mRNA.

11. Mutation Rule : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

mRNA : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Protein: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Type Of Mutation : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

12. Mutation Rule : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

mRNA : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Protein: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Type Of Mutation : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

13. Mutation Rule : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

mRNA : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Protein: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Type Of Mutation : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

14. Mutation Rule : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

mRNA : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Protein: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Type Of Mutation : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15. Mutation Rule : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

mRNA : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Protein: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Type Of Mutation : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

16. Mutation Rule : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

mRNA : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Protein: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Type Of Mutation : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**III. Analysis & Conclusions**

*Choose one of your sequences.*

**1. Describe the differences between the original and mutated sequences?**

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**2. How many amino acids were changed?**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**3. What do you think will be the impact of this mutation?**

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**4. Was the sequence a result of a point or frameshift mutation?**

Circle One : Point Mutation Frameshift Mutation

**5. Explain why all mutations are not necessarily harmful.**

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**6. Does changing the sequence of nucleotides always result in a different amino**

**acid sequence? Explain.**

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