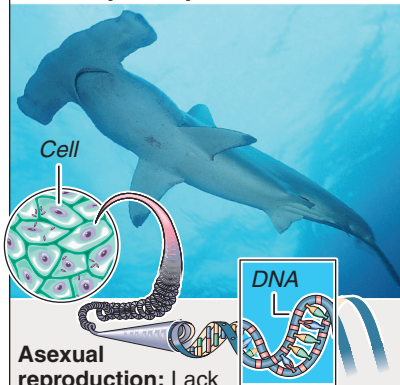


# Shark “virgin birth”

Genetic tests by scientists have confirmed that female sharks can reproduce without having sex. *Parthenogenesis* – growth of an egg cell into an embryo without addition of any genetic material from a male sperm cell – has occurred in a hammerhead shark at Henry Doorly Zoo in Nebraska



**Asexual reproduction:** Lack of male DNA reduces genetic diversity which gives animals new traits and enables evolution