PCR Virtual Lab – Learn Genetics



Go to **bit.ly/3Hax70b.** Click **Start** and use the animation to answer the questions below.

- 1. What does PCR stand for? Polymerase chain reaction
- 2. What does it do? Make copies
- 3. What are some uses of PCR? Genetic engineering, forensic identification & medical testin
- 4. How is PCR specific? Primers, different targets different primers
- 5. What 5 components are needed for PCR: Primer, DNA polymerase, nucleotides, water & salts
- 6. Why does cycle 1 need:
 - a) A temperature of 95°C? Disrupts complimentary base pairing to separate DNA strands
 - b) A temperature of 50°C? Base pairing can occur again, but more primers present so primers bind before DNA comes back together
 - c) A temperature of 70°C? Activates DNA polymerase & builds onto primers creating new DNA
- 7. In what cycle do the desired products first appear? Cycle 3
- 8. How many cycles does it take to have more than 1 billion copies of just the target sequence? 30
- 9. a) What is a limitation of PCR? It can only amplify what is present
 - b) How does this relate to using PCR testing to test for the presence of COVID-19?

10. Scroll down and summarize 3 uses for PCR