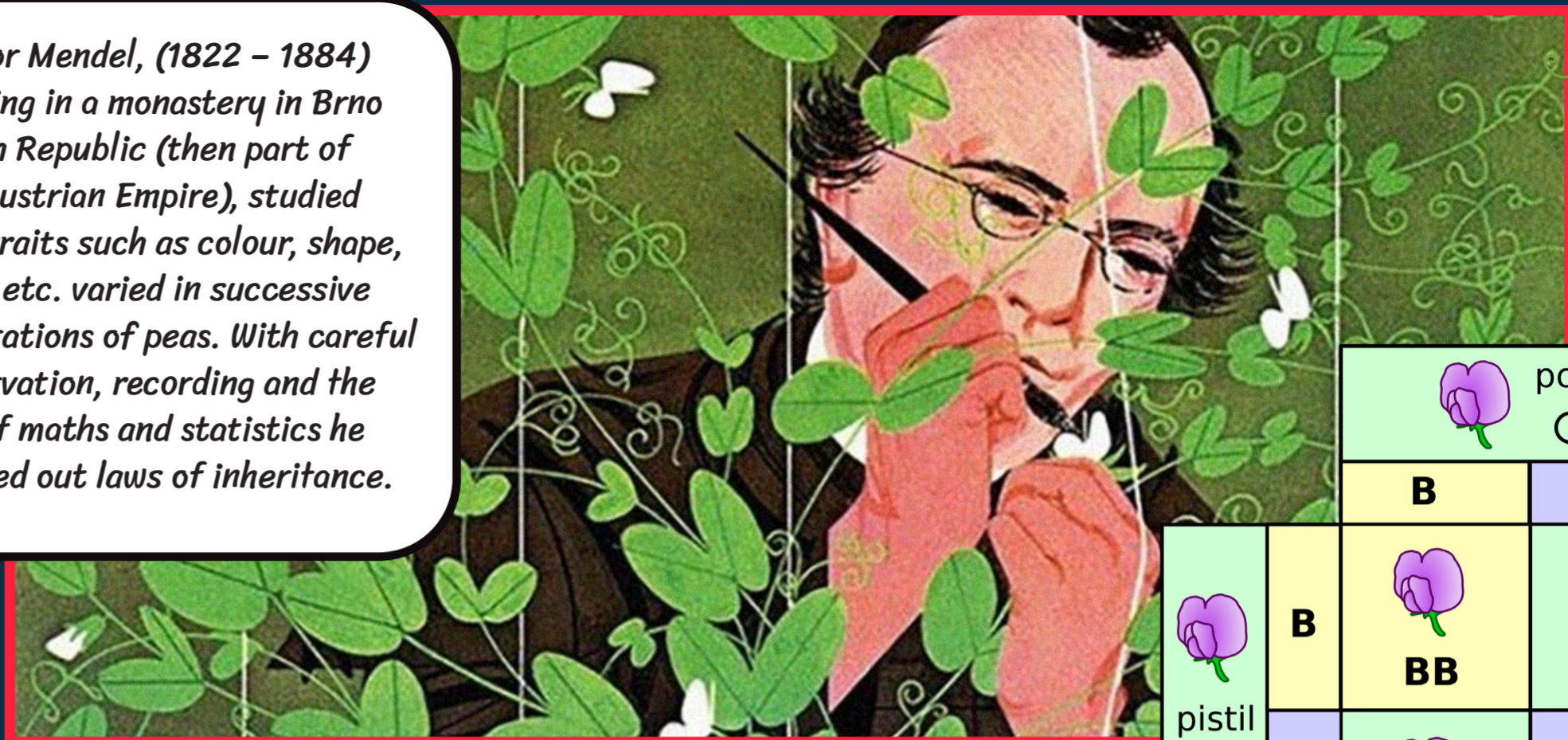


# MATHS OF LIFE

GENETICS EXPLORES HOW TRAITS PASS FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT

Gregor Mendel, (1822 – 1884) working in a monastery in Brno Czech Republic (then part of the Austrian Empire), studied how traits such as colour, shape, pods, etc. varied in successive generations of peas. With careful observation, recording and the use of maths and statistics he figured out laws of inheritance.



		pollen ♂	
		B	b
pistil ♀	B	BB	Bb
	b	Bb	bb

**MENDEL 200**

GREGOR MENDEL, (1822 – 1884)



In the following decades many scientists built on this knowledge and with the help of maths discovered that the information was carried by a long chain molecule called DNA.

In 1953, scientists discovered that DNA was wound in a double helix. This was very important as it explained how the DNA could replicate and pass on to the next generation.

The science of genetics has advanced our understanding of living things. Genetic techniques have led to the detection, prevention and treatment of disease in humans, animals and plants and are critical in increasing food production.