



Figure 11.18 A gametic life cycle as represented by a diatom. A, the progeny cells continually become smaller if, after cell division, the new cell forms within the silica shell of the old cell. B, meiosis occurs; three of the nuclei with the n number of chromosomes degenerate and the single remaining haploid cell becomes a gamete. C, fusion of the two gametes to form a zygote.