Black/Brown Colorless (white) Pink molecule Pheomelanin Eumelanin Tyrosinase MC1R molecule Molecule Protein **cAMP** Regulator

Julie (tans) Debra (burns) Organisms How does the the trait appear in a sunny environment? Is it harmful? Cells What do you think is going on inside the cells in a sunny environment? Molecules What do you think is happening on the molecular level in a sunny environment?

Name:

Hr:

Use our gene model to explain why Julie tans and Debra burns in sunlight.

## 1.10 Explanations Tool - Why do some people tan and others burn?

## Skin Color in Different Environments

Lack of protection from sunlight has a major impact on human health. In Australia, the lifetime cumulative incidence of skin cancer approaches 50%, yet the oxymoronic "smart tanning" industry continues to grow. At the other end of the spectrum, inadequate exposure to sunlight can lead to vitamin D deficiency and rickets. (Adapted from: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC212702/)

Consider each Environment below. Describe which traits would be helpful and which traits would be harmful and why.

## Environment 1 - Australia, a country with a lot of direct sunlight

Environment 2 - Norway, a country without a lot of direct sunlight