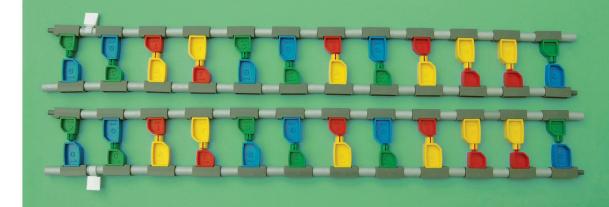


DNA/RNA

Booklet 2:

Advanced DNA Topics



Models and lessons created by Kathleen M. Vandiver. Graphics by Amanda Mayer. ©MIT. All Rights Reserved.

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This booklet assumes you have completed DNA/RNA Booklet 1: Introduction to Structure and Function.

Using Your Booklet and Kit

Q: = Helpful Questions (answers on Page 51)

Bold type = required actions

Underlined = new vocabulary

1. Open the kit. Count the gray DNA pieces in the small compartments. Each compartment should have 4 similar DNA pieces. Check that the colors are in the correct places. There are:

• 12 red (T)

• 12 yellow (A)

• 12 green (C)

• 12 blue (G)

2. Count the orange RNA pieces in the large compartment. Similar RNA pieces should be joined together in groups of six. There are:

• 6 brown (U)

6 yellow (A)

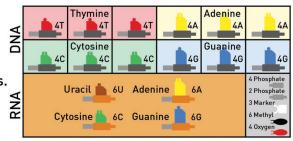
• 6 green (C)

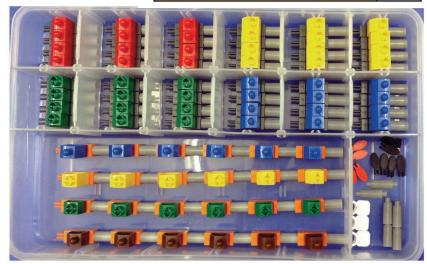
• 6 blue (G)

3. Identify and count the pieces in the last compartment. There are:

• 6 gray cylinders (phosphates)
4 with single pin
2 with double pin

- 3 white markers
- 6 black clips (methyl)
- 4 red clips (oxygen)





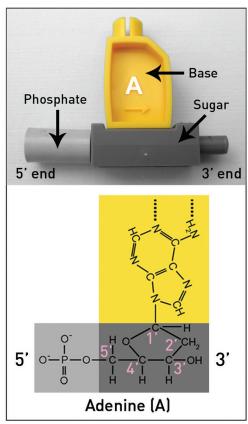
PART I: NUCLEOTIDE CHEMISTRY

You will simulate cell processes in greater detail in this booklet. The chemistry of these processes is important to understand. Begin by examining the three parts of a nucleotide more closely.

Sugar Chemistry

- 1. Pick up an adenine (A) DNA nucleotide. Identify the gray sugar component.
- 2. Look at the diagram to visualize the sugar's atoms. Find the carbon atoms in the sugar that are numbered 1' through 5' in pink. (The mark next to the number is called "prime.")
- **3. Locate the 3' carbon and the 5' carbon in the diagram.** They are positioned on opposite ends of the sugar. These carbons establish the two ends of the nucleotide.

DNA Nucleotide



The 5' end of the sugar is always attached to a phosphate group. The 3' end is free. The enzyme DNA polymerase can only lengthen a DNA strand by adding nucleotides to the free 3' end. Thus elongation can only occur from one end of a strand.

4. Find the 3' mark on the A in your hand. Add a G onto this 3' end.



5. Add a C onto the 3' end of the G. Check your DNA strand with the photo below.



Q: Which number carbon is free (can be added onto)? Which number carbon is attached to the phosphate group? (HINT: Refer to the diagram on page 3)