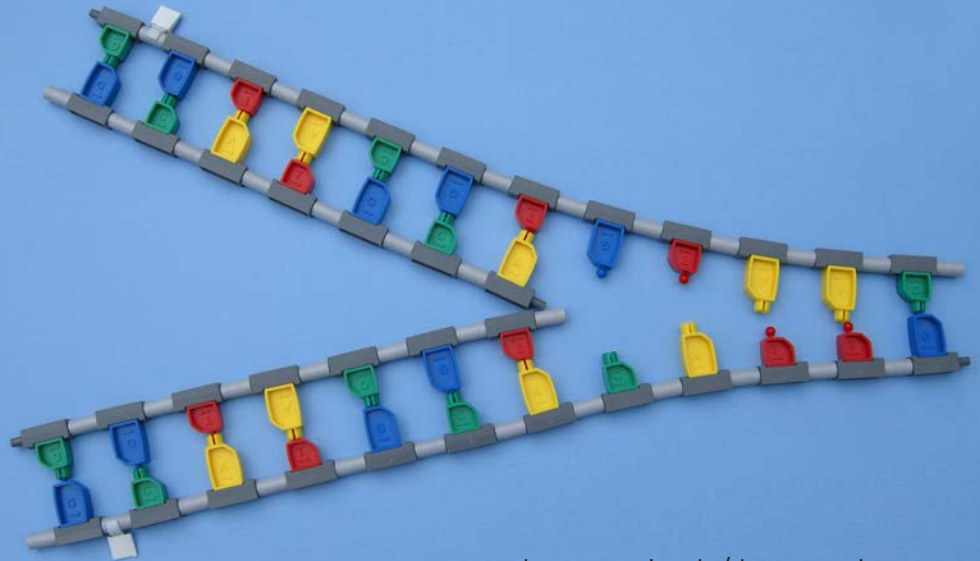


DNA/RNA

Booklet 1:

Introduction to Structure and Function



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Table of Contents

Using Your Booklet and Kit.....	Page 2
PART I: STRUCTURE	
Introducing the Nucleotides.....	Page 3
Knowing Your Nucleotides.....	Page 4-6
Building a Double Helix.....	Page 7-9
Replicating DNA.....	Page 10-13
Cells and DNA.....	Page 14
Building a Gene.....	Page 15
Summarizing DNA Vocabulary.....	Page 16
PART II: FUNCTION	
The Importance of DNA.....	Page 17
Decoding a Gene.....	Page 18-19
Genes for Different Proteins.....	Page 20
Chart of DNA Codons.....	Page 21
Differences Between DNA and RNA.....	Page 22-23
Transcribing a Gene.....	Page 24-25
Chart of RNA Codons.....	Page 26
Wheel of RNA Codons.....	Page 27
Check Your Understanding.....	Page 28
Answers to Helpful Questions.....	Page 29

Using Your Booklet and Kit

Q: = Helpful Questions (answers on Page 29)

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:

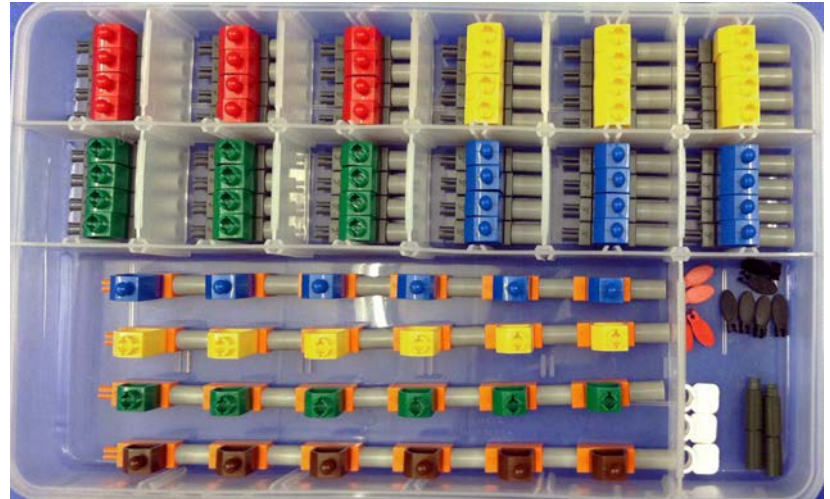
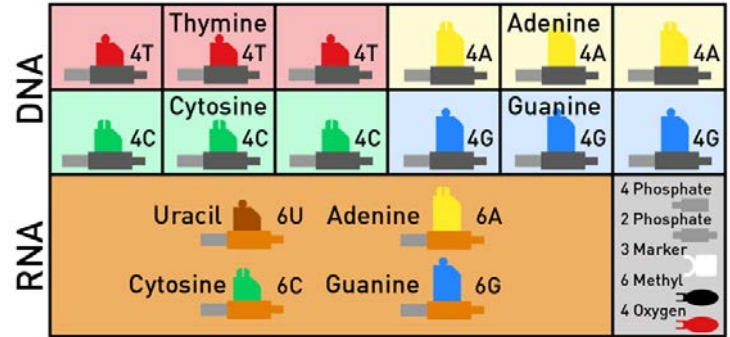
- 12 red (T)
- 12 yellow (A)
- 12 green (C)
- 12 blue (G)

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: STRUCTURE

Introducing the Nucleotides

DNA is the abbreviation for deoxyribonucleic acid. RNA is the abbreviation for ribonucleic acid. The pieces shown below are the building blocks of DNA and RNA. These small molecules are nucleotides.

Look at the photos and the figures. There are 2 kinds of nucleotides.



DNA Nucleotide



RNA Nucleotide



RNA



RNA nucleotide



DNA



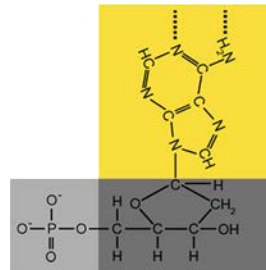
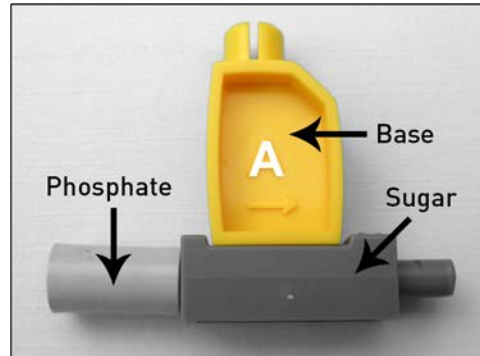
DNA nucleotide

Q: Which nucleotides are orange? Which nucleotides are gray?

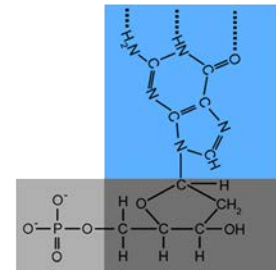
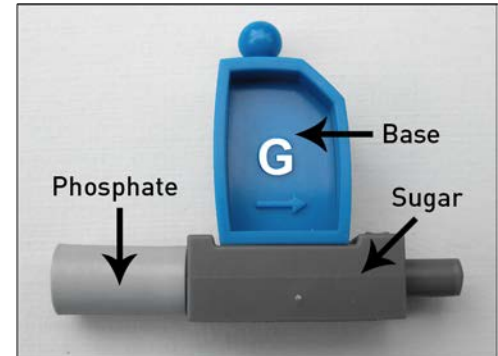
Knowing Your Nucleotides

1. Take out 1 of each color DNA nucleotide. Hold a nucleotide in your hand and use the picture to identify the parts:

- phosphate (light gray cylinder)
- sugar (dark gray block)
- base (colorful shape with letter)



Adenine (A)



Guanine (G)

2. Look at the chemical diagrams below each model. The diagrams show the atoms in each nucleotide.

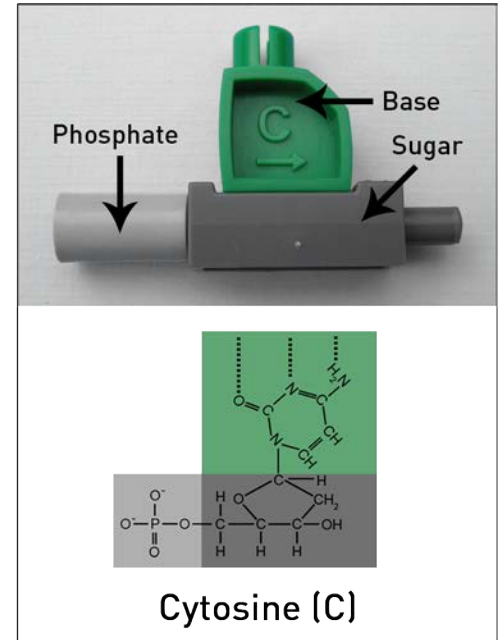
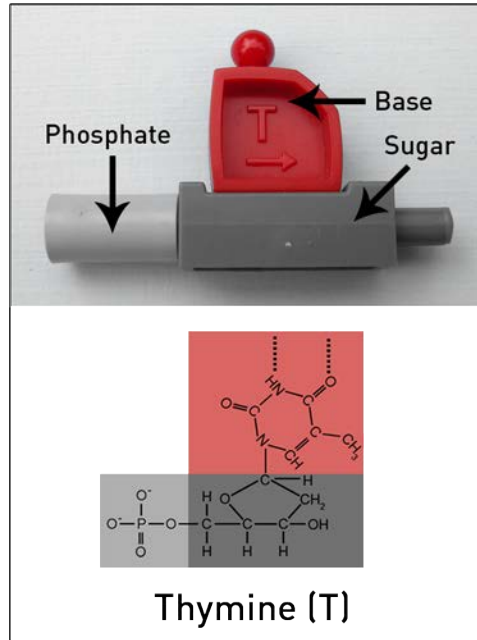
Q: Name the atoms you see in the chemical diagrams.

3. Find the letters on the models. They stand for the chemical names of the bases:

- Adenine (A)
- Guanine (G)
- Thymine (T)
- Cytosine (C)

4. Compare the sizes of all 4 bases.

Q: Which bases are bigger?



5. Find the arrows on each model nucleotide. Find the 3' end marked on the sugar. The arrow points toward the 3' end. Arrows are important when building DNA strands.

6. Build a small DNA molecule with just 4 nucleotides: A, T, G, and C. Your DNA should look like a ladder, with 2 nucleotides on each side of the ladder.

7. **Look at the top photo.** This is one way to build a DNA ladder from 4 nucleotides. However, this DNA structure is not correct. To make it correct, you must always pair a big nucleotide with a small nucleotide. This will keep the sides parallel.

8. **Look at the arrows on your DNA.** In nature, the sides of the DNA ladder run in opposite directions. The arrows on one side should point in one direction and the arrows on the other side should point in the opposite direction.

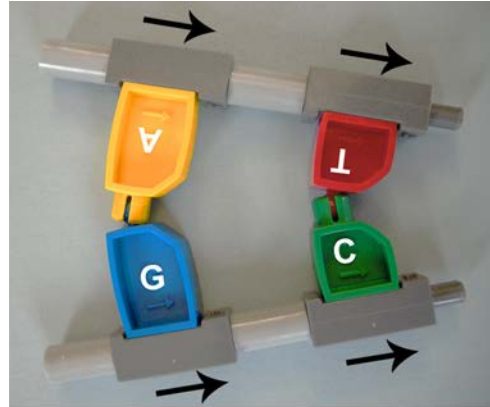
9. **Fix your DNA molecule so it looks like the bottom photo:**

- Pair big nucleotides with small nucleotides.
- The sides should be parallel.
- The arrows should point in opposite directions.

Q: Which bases always pair together in DNA?

You have just discovered the famous base-pairing rule!

INCORRECT



CORRECT

