

# **Lesson 1**

**Historical contributors to DNA  
DNA structure**



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**What does DNA  
look like, and how  
does it replicate  
itself?**

**Cell**

**Nucleus**

**Chromosome**

**Telomere**

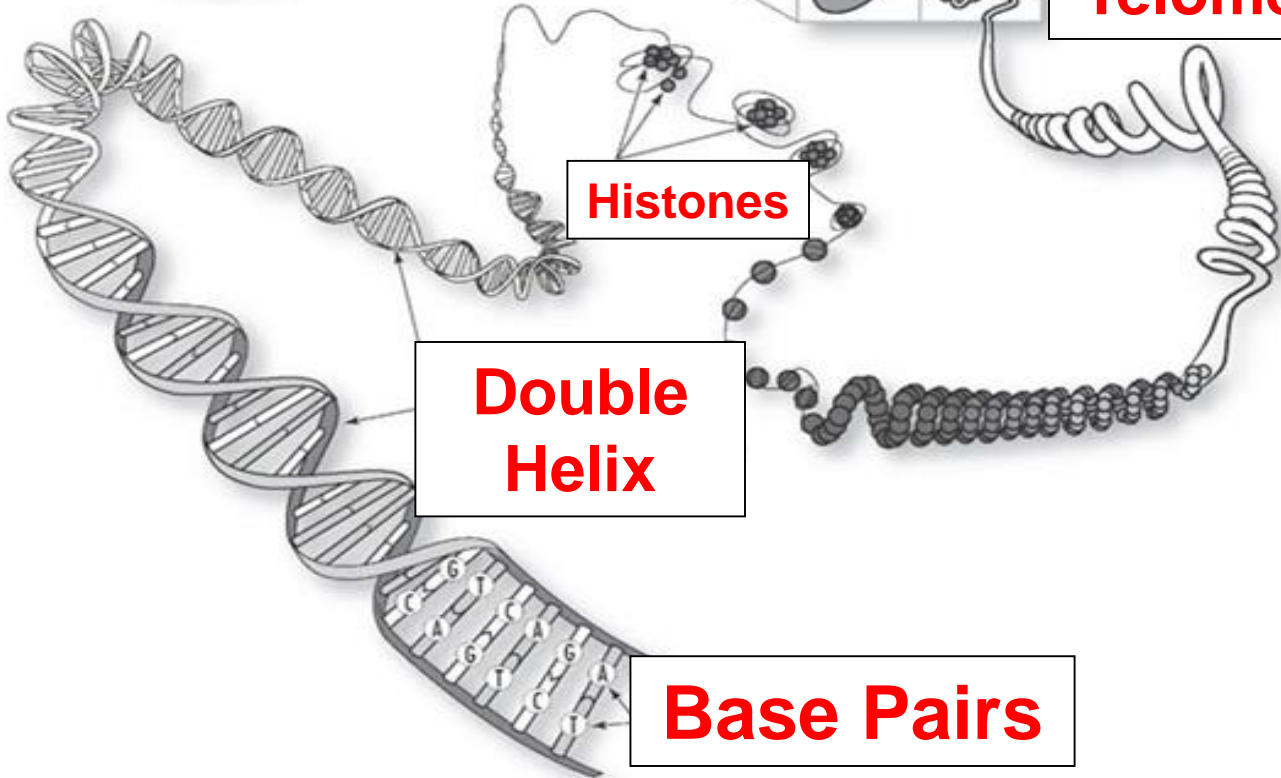
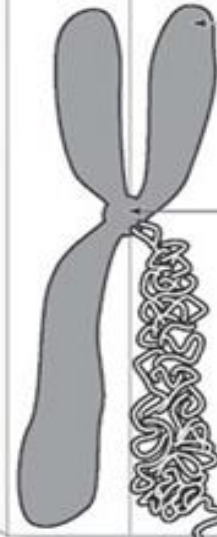
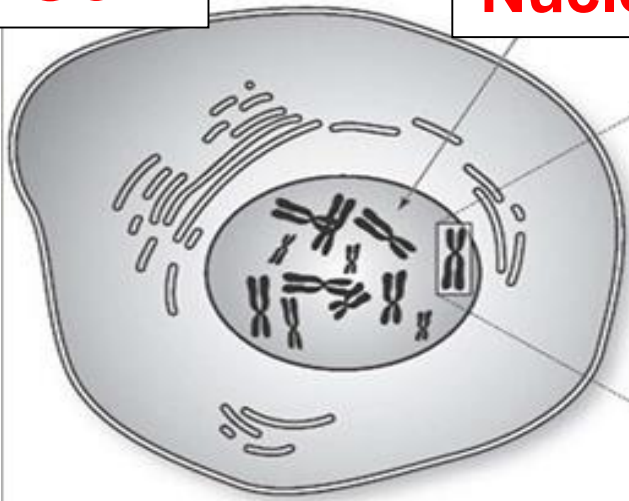
**Centromere**

**Telomere**

**Histones**

**Double Helix**

**Base Pairs**





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# Unlocking the mystery of DNA

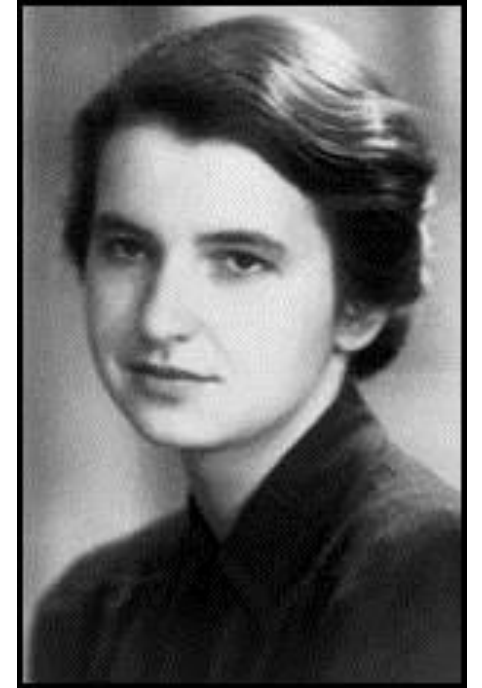
DNA Double Helix Discovery - HHMI  
(17min)

# Discovering the structure of DNA

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## Rosalind Franklin (1920-1958)

- King's College, London
- Made significant advances in x-ray diffraction techniques with DNA
- Her images suggested that DNA had a helical (spiral) shape



# Discovering the structure of DNA

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## Maurice Wilkins – (1916-2004)

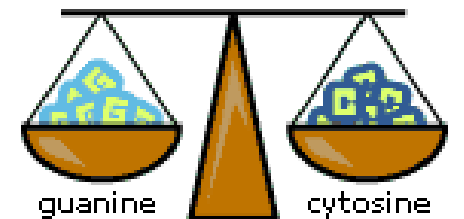
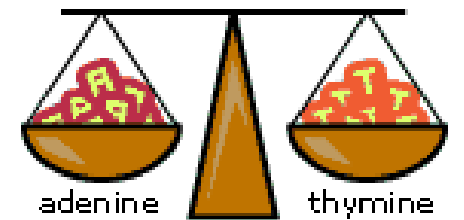
- King's College, London
- Also did X-ray diffraction studies of DNA
- Worked with Rosalind Franklin
- Shared her information with Watson and Crick



# Discovering the structure of DNA

## Erwin Chargaff – (1905-2002)

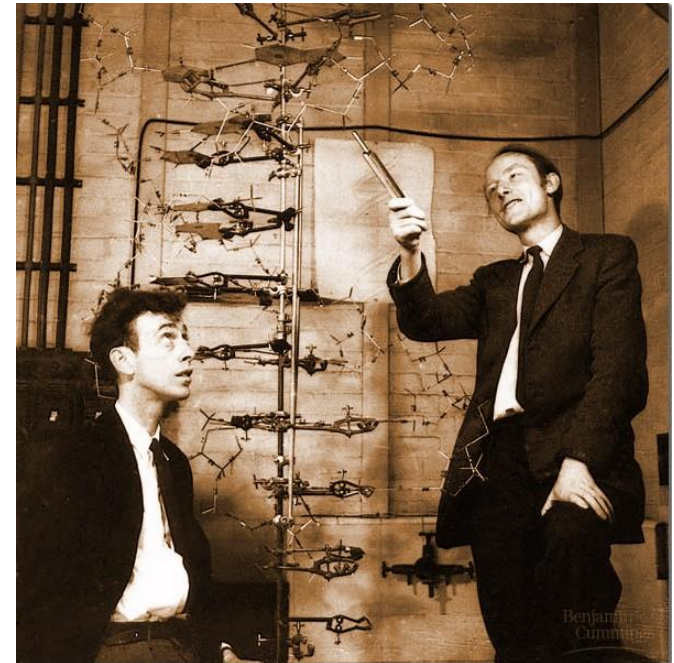
- Columbia University, NY
- Investigated the composition of DNA
- His findings by 1950 strongly suggested the base-pairings of A-T & G-C
- Met with Watson and Crick in 1952 and shared his findings
- “Chargaff’s rule” A - T & C - G



# Discovering the structure of DNA

## James Watson (1928) and Francis Crick (1916-2004)

- Worked together at Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge to determine the structure of DNA
- Used work from Franklin, Wilkins, and Chargaff to determine the double helix shape
- Watson, Crick, and Wilkins were awarded the Nobel Prize in 1962
- Rosalind Franklin passed away from ovarian cancer in 1958 at the age of 37, before their award

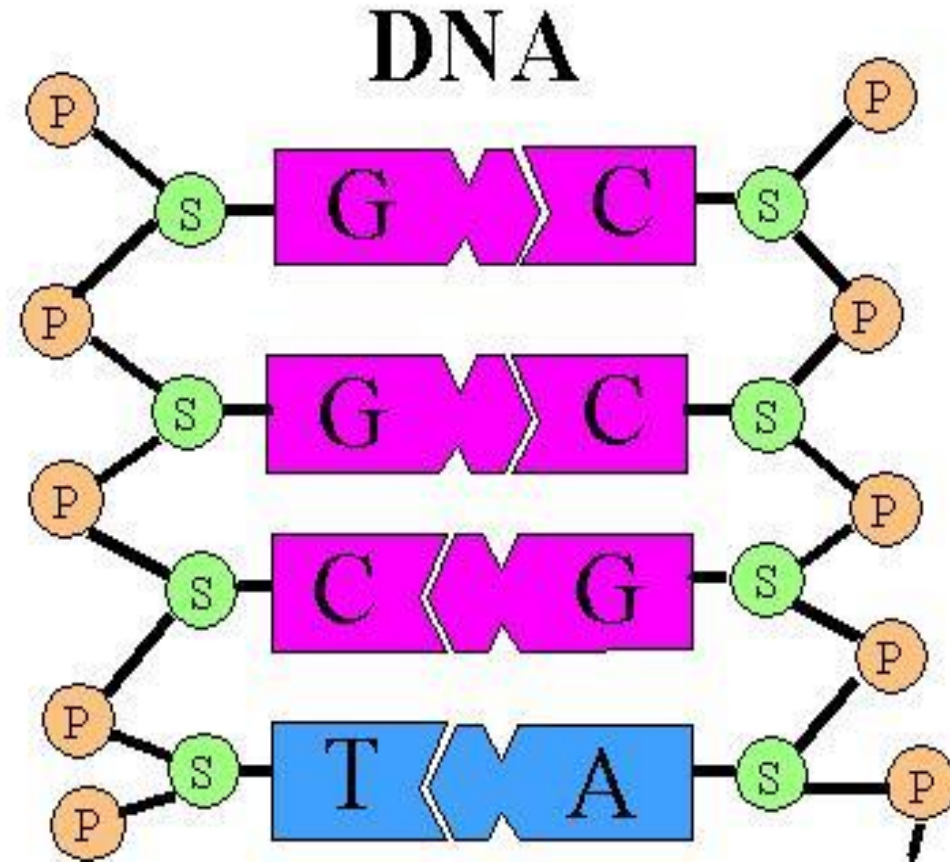




# DNA Structure

DNA = Deoxyribonucleic acid

- genetic material, stored as tightly coiled chromosomes
- made up of subunits called nucleotides
- found in the cell nucleus



# DNA Structure

## Nucleotide:

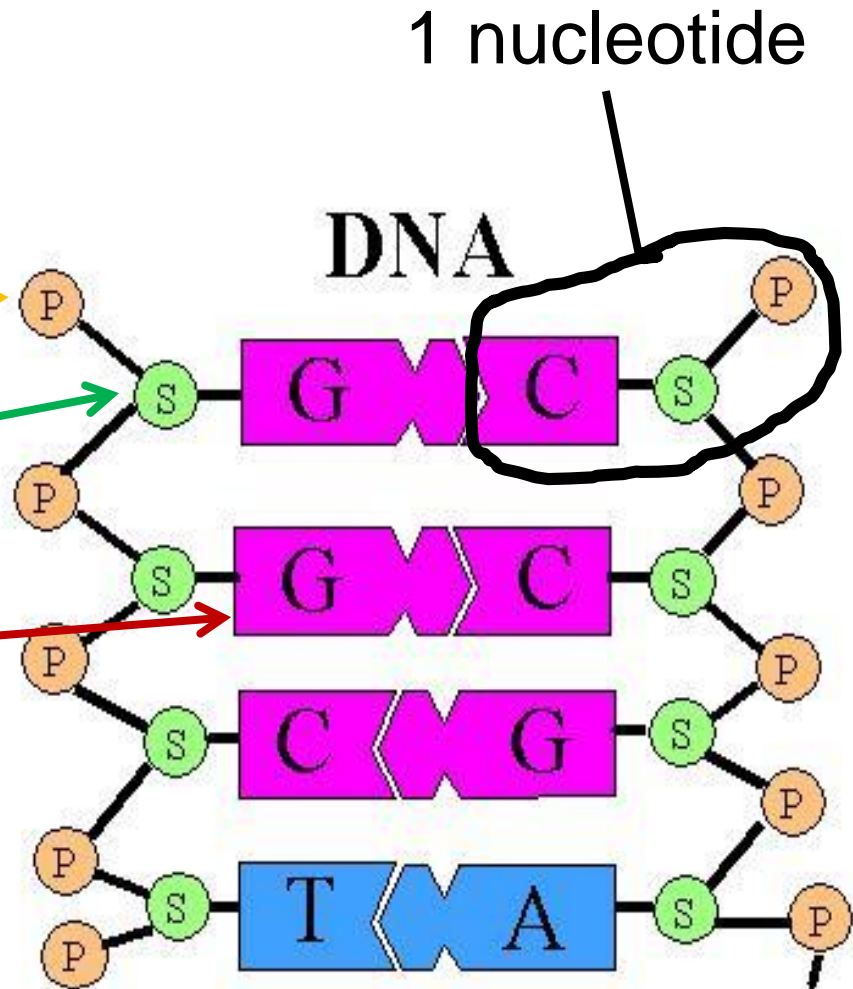
- a DNA subunit that consists of:

- a phosphate
- a 5 carbon sugar (deoxyribose)
- nitrogen base

– 4 different paired bases

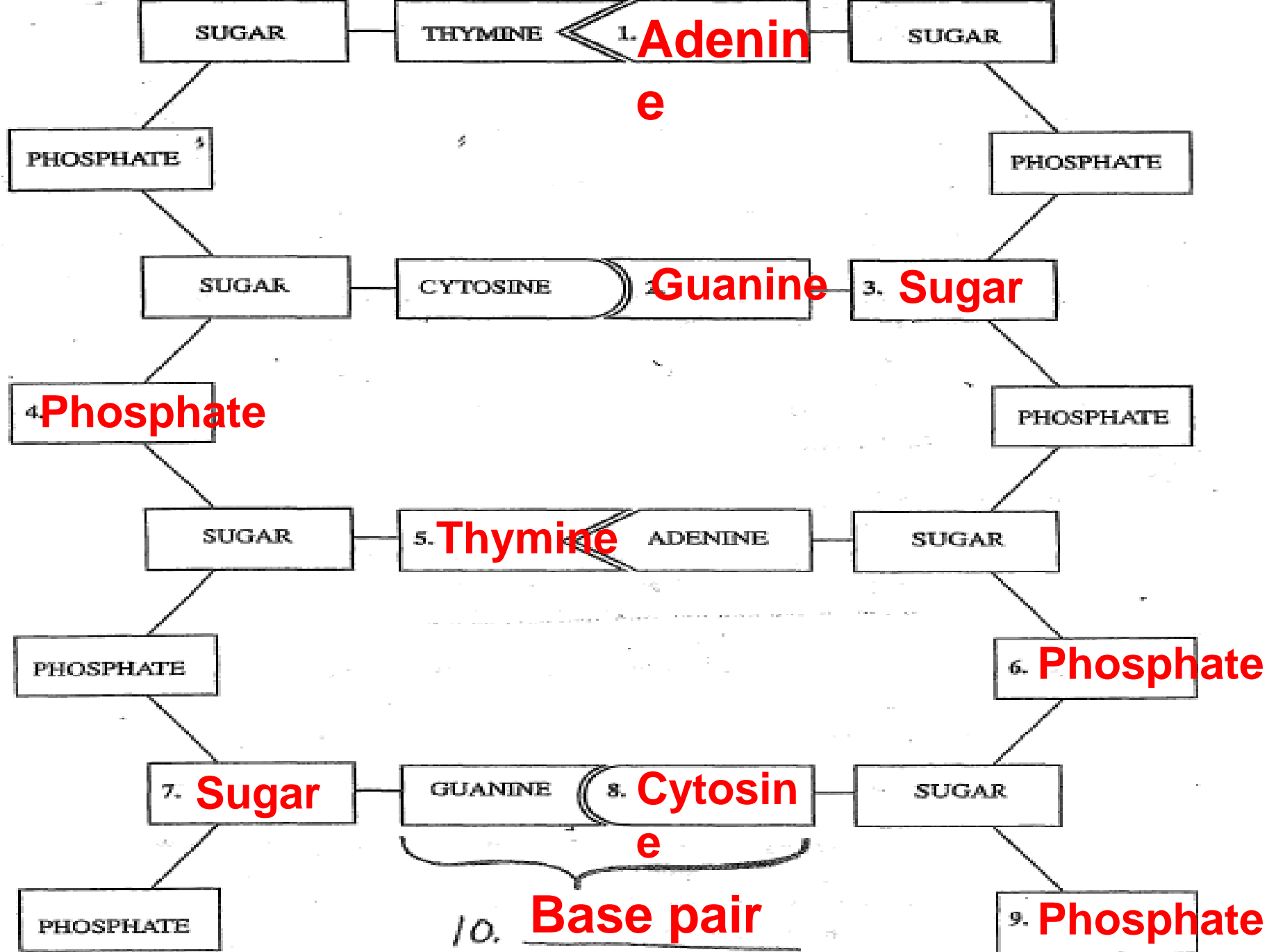
Adenine (A) and Thymine (T)

Guanine (G) and Cytosine (C)



# **Lesson 2**

## **DNA structure & modeling**



# DNA Practice Questions

**b**

1. Which type of compound is found in every DNA molecule?

- a. Starch
- b. Nitrogenous base
- c. Lipid
- d. Amino acid

**c**

2. The "ribo" part in the name deoxyribonucleic acid refers to the

- a. Rungs of the spiral ladder
- b. Bonds that hold two strands together
- c. Sugar component of DNA
- d. Type of helical arrangement

**c**

3. A molecular group consisting of a sugar molecule, a phosphate group, and a nitrogen base is a

- a. Nucleoprotein
- b. Nucleic acid
- c. Nucleotide
- d. Nucleolus

**c**

4. A nucleotide of DNA could contain
- Adenine, ribose and phosphate
  - Nitrogenous base, phosphate and glucose
  - Phosphate, deoxyribose and thymine
  - Uracil, deoxyribose and phosphate

**a**

5. A nucleotide would *least* likely contain the element
- Sulfur
  - Carbon
  - Nitrogen
  - Phosphorous

**d**

6. In a DNA molecule, a base pair normally could be composed of
- Adenine and guanine
  - Adenine and cytosine
  - Thymine and guanine
  - Guanine and cytosine

# Base pairing in DNA

## Purines (larger)

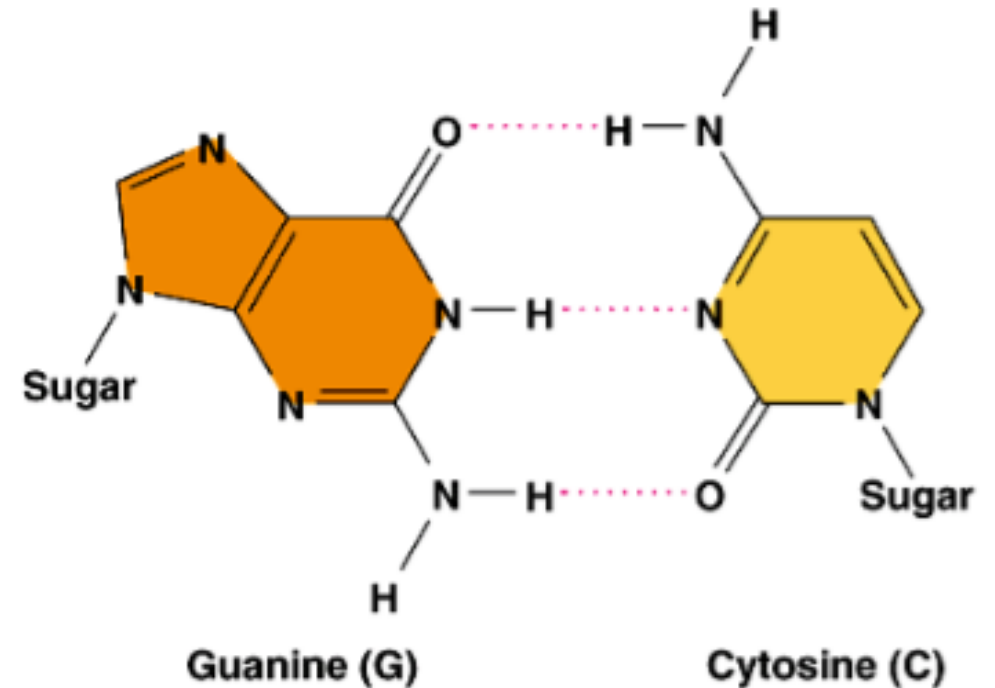
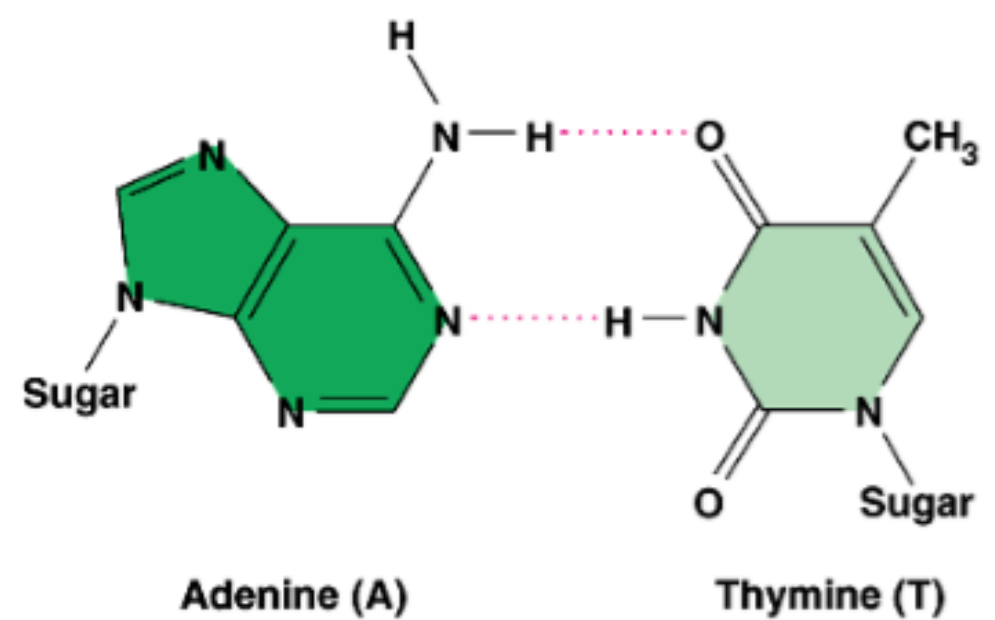
- adenine (A)
- guanine (G)

## Pyrimidines (smaller)

- thymine (T)
- cytosine (C)

## Hydrogen Bonds (weak)

- A with T (2 bonds)
- C with G (3 bonds)



# Practice DNA Base Pairs

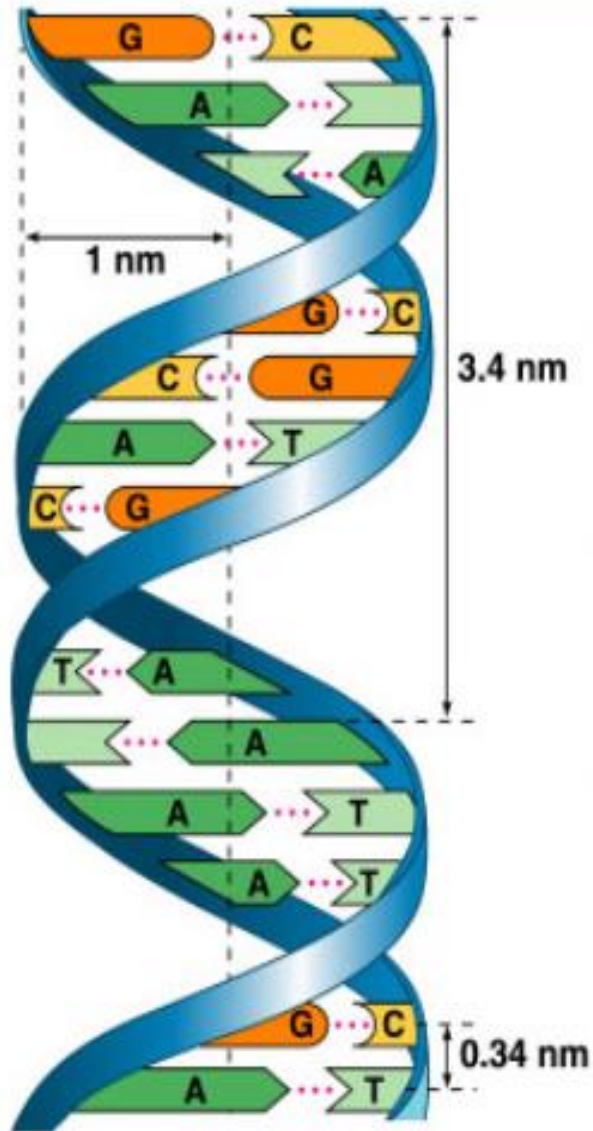
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**G A T T A C A**  
**C T A A T G T**

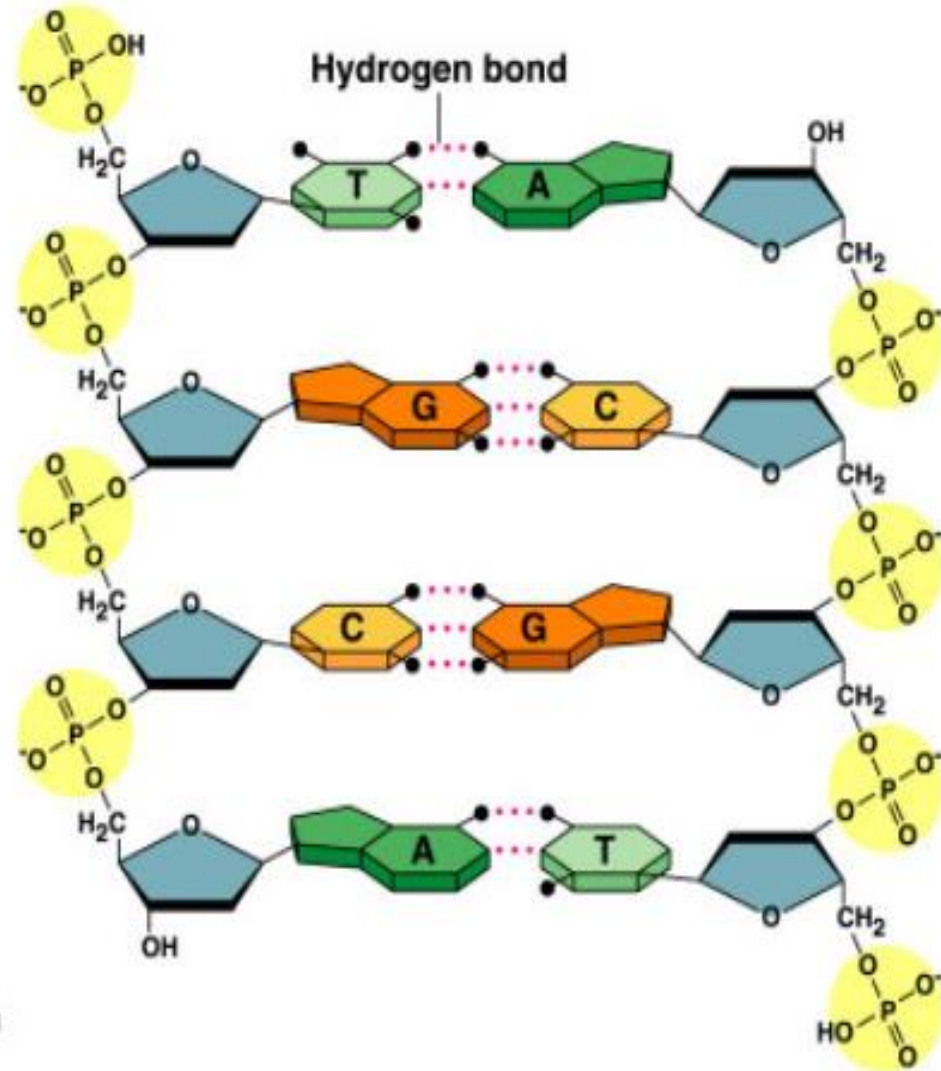




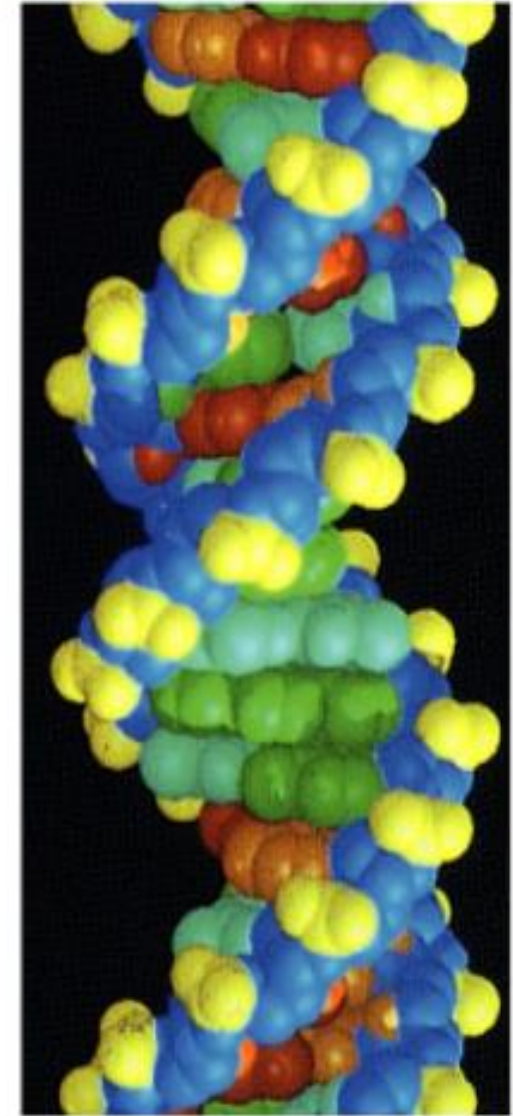
# Double Helix Structure of DNA



(a) Key features of DNA structure



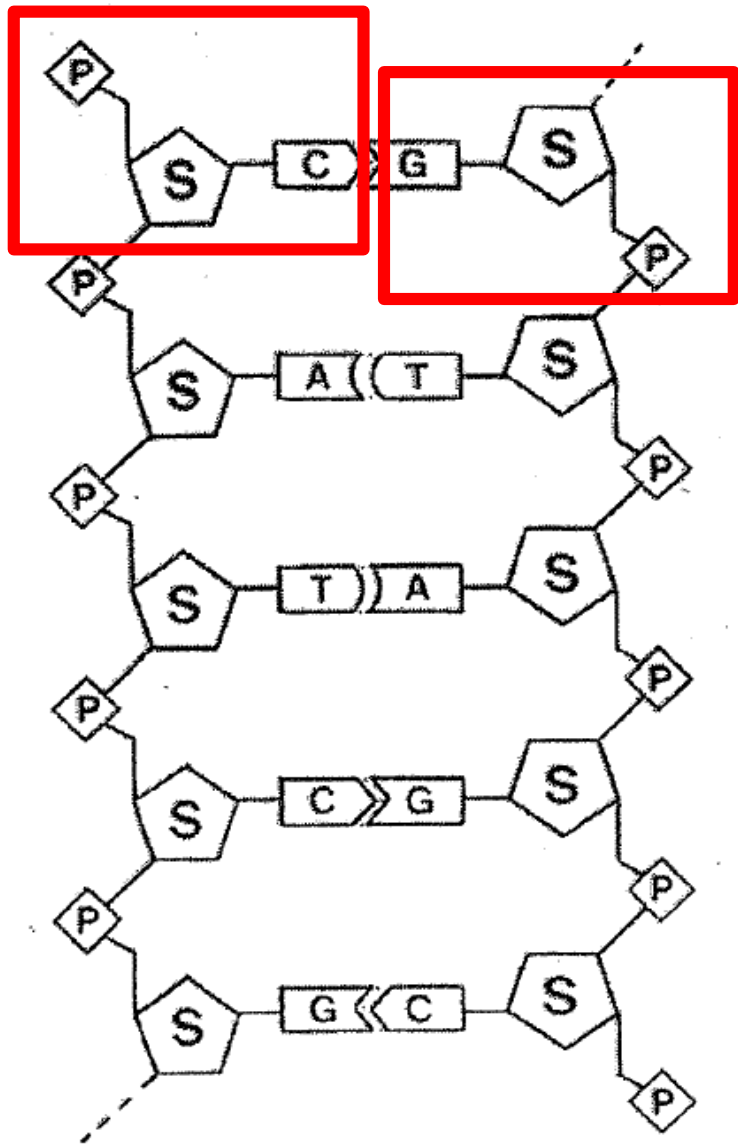
(b) Partial chemical structure



(c) Space-filling model

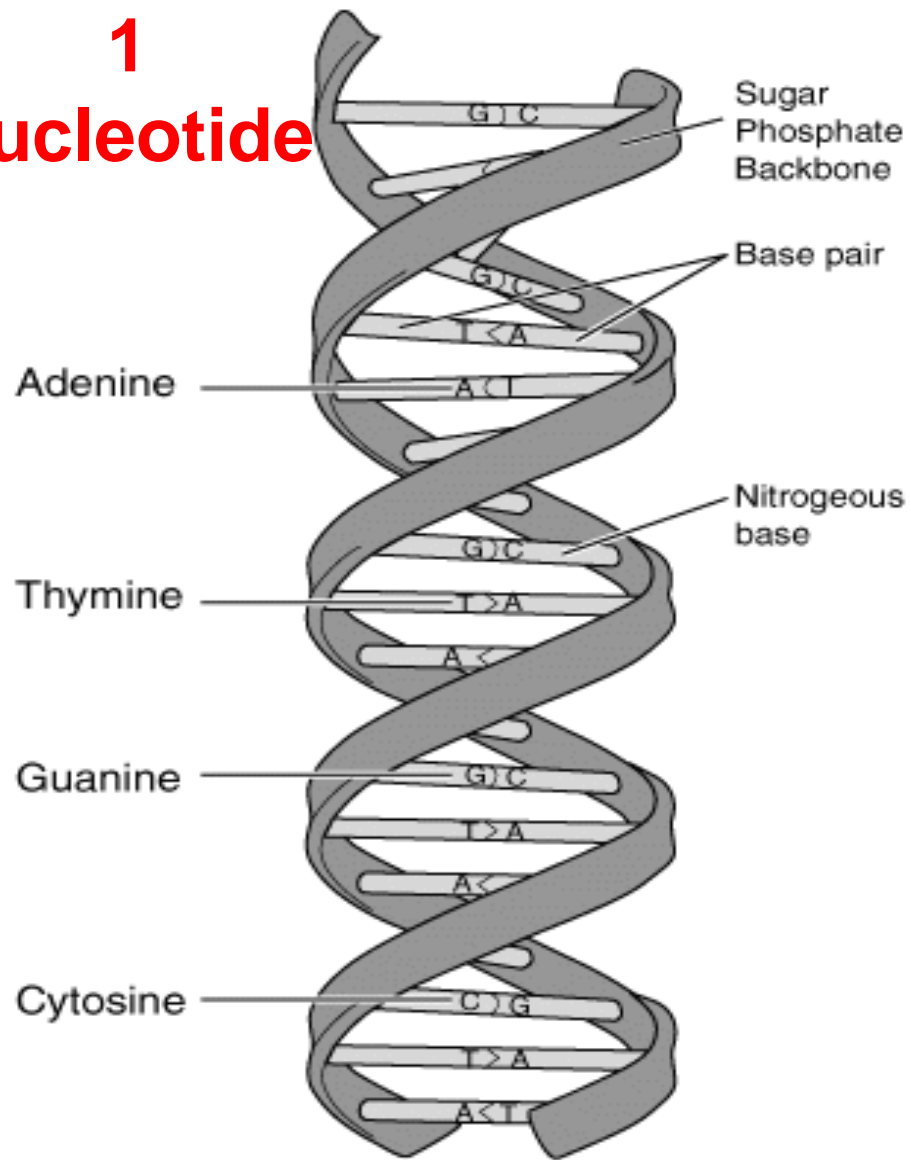
# DNA Structure

1  
nucleotide



(untwisted diagram of DNA)

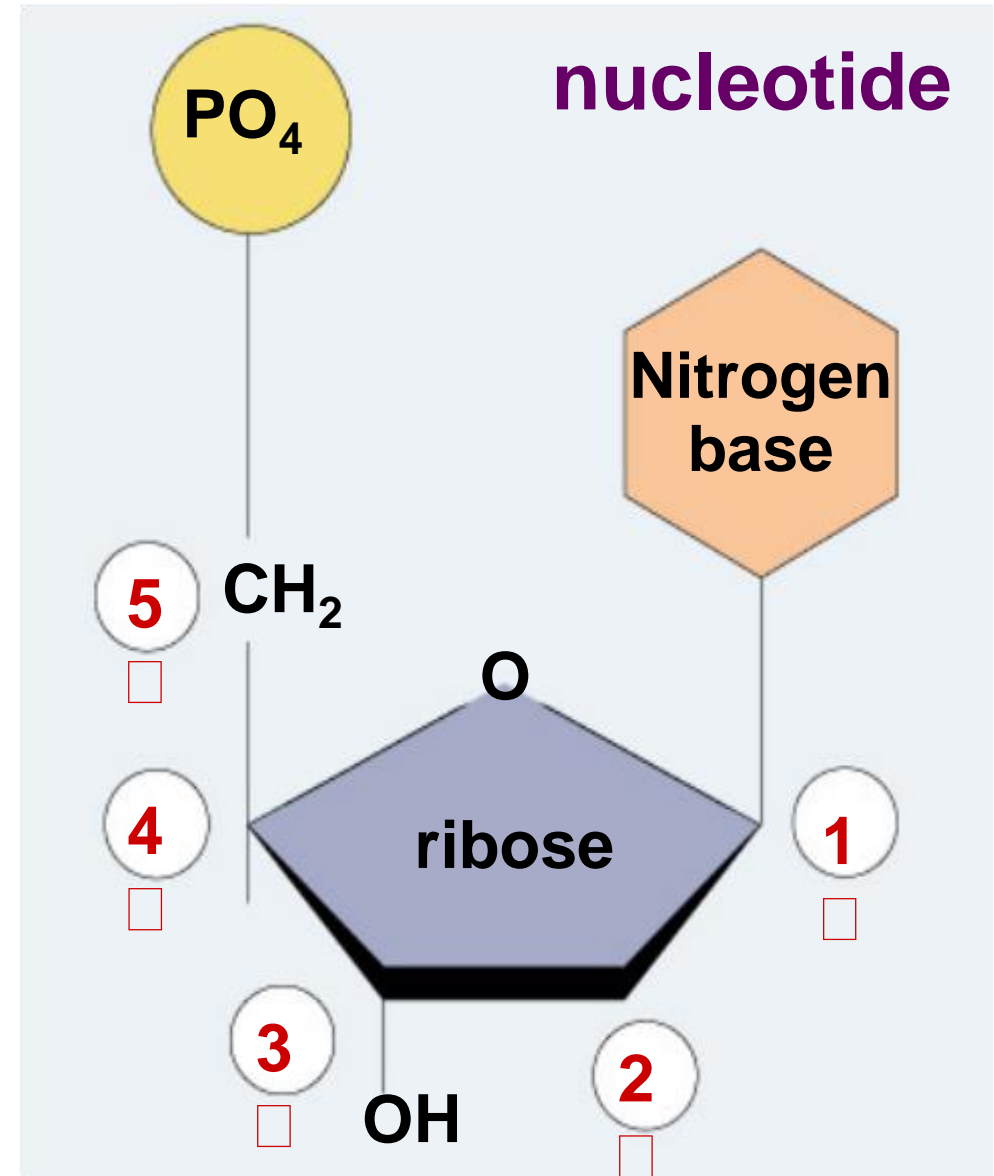
1  
nucleotide



(twisted diagram of DNA)

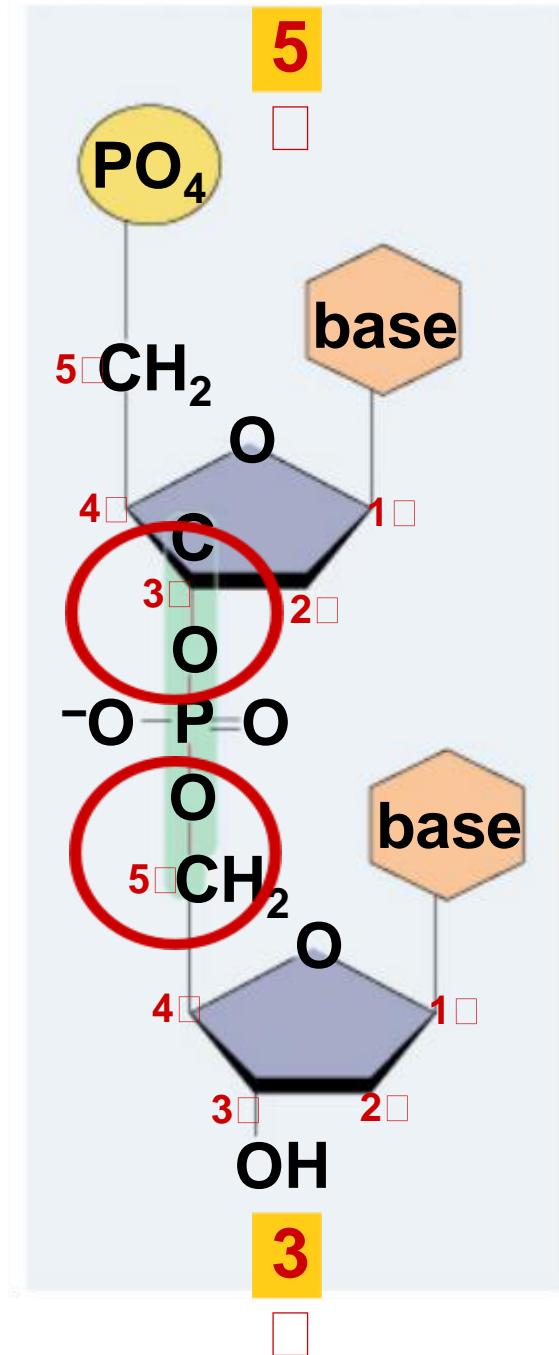
# Directionality of DNA

- Draw the nucleotide
- Number the carbons
  - #1 attaches to the nitrogen base
  - then work your way around



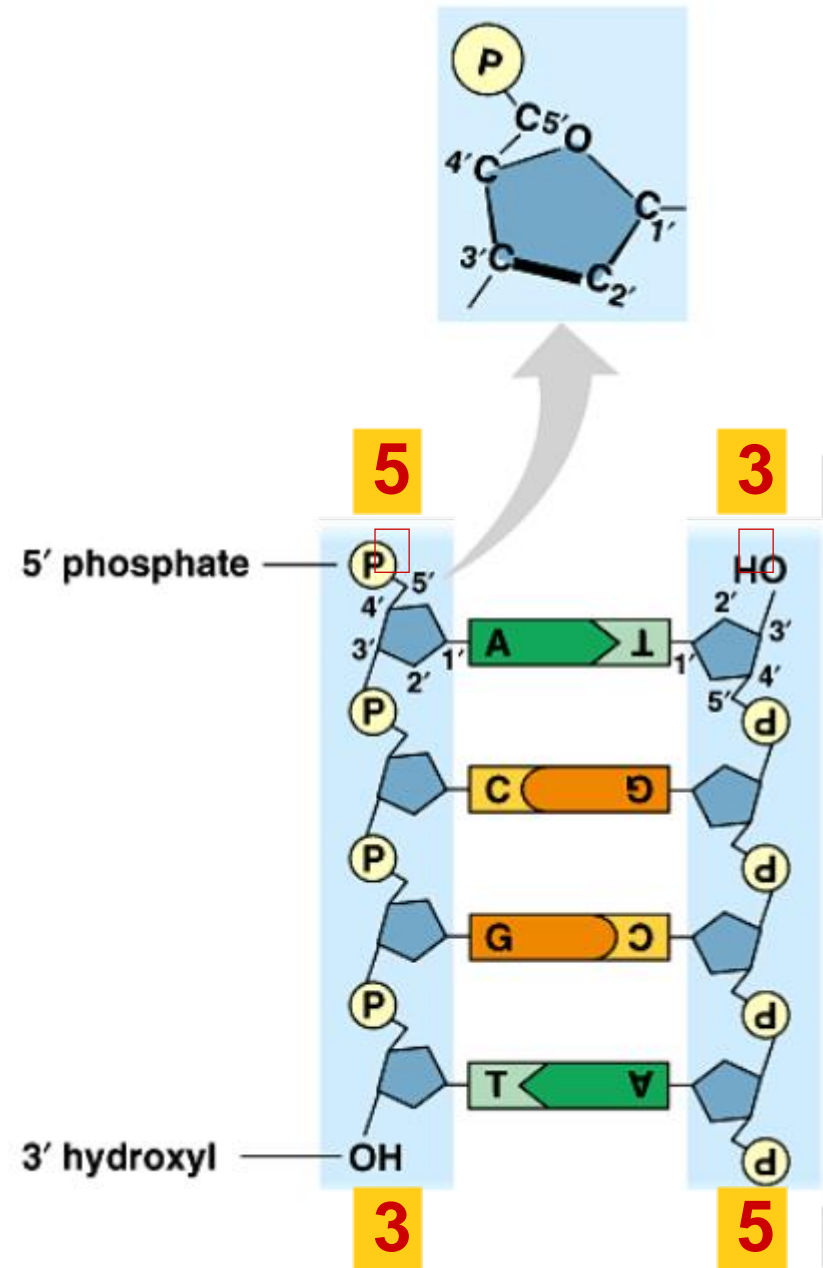
# The DNA Backbone

- Nucleotides bond from phosphate to sugar between Carbons 3 & 5
- Strong covalent bonds



# Anti-Parallel Strands

- DNA molecule has “direction”
- Complementary strands run in opposite directions
- 5' to 3' (read as 5 prime to 3 prime) is “right side up”
- 3' to 5' is “upside down”



# **Lesson 3**

## **DNA Replication**

DNA Molecule #1:

A — T

G — C

T — A

C — \_\_\_\_\_

A — \_\_\_\_\_

C — \_\_\_\_\_

T — \_\_\_\_\_

G — \_\_\_\_\_

T — \_\_\_\_\_

G — \_\_\_\_\_

C — \_\_\_\_\_

T — \_\_\_\_\_

A — \_\_\_\_\_

C — \_\_\_\_\_

DNA Molecule #2:

C — \_\_\_\_\_

T — \_\_\_\_\_

G — \_\_\_\_\_

G — \_\_\_\_\_

C — \_\_\_\_\_

C — \_\_\_\_\_

A — \_\_\_\_\_

A — \_\_\_\_\_

T — \_\_\_\_\_

T — \_\_\_\_\_

G — \_\_\_\_\_

A — \_\_\_\_\_

T — \_\_\_\_\_

A — \_\_\_\_\_

DNA Molecule #3:

A — \_\_\_\_\_

T — \_\_\_\_\_

A — \_\_\_\_\_

G — \_\_\_\_\_

G — \_\_\_\_\_

T — \_\_\_\_\_

C — \_\_\_\_\_

A — \_\_\_\_\_

G — \_\_\_\_\_

C — \_\_\_\_\_

A — \_\_\_\_\_

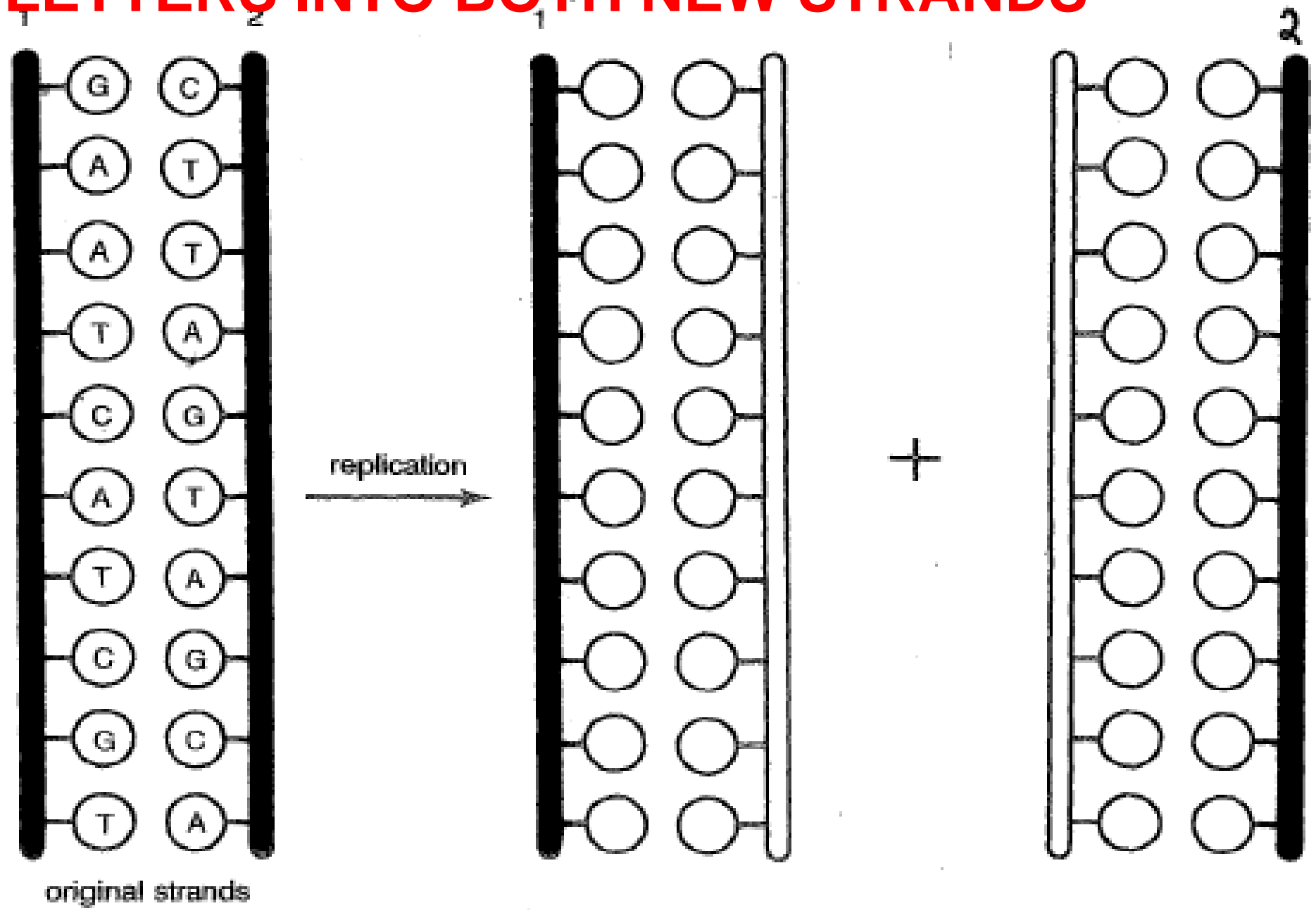
T — \_\_\_\_\_

G — \_\_\_\_\_

A — \_\_\_\_\_

# COPY LETTERS INTO BOTH NEW STRANDS

**DNA replication is “semi-conservative”:**  
**Each molecule is made up of 1 old strand and 1 new strand**





**QUESTIONS:**

1- Which bonds are broken during DNA replication?

**hydrogen bonds  
between bases**

2- What determines the linear sequence of nucleotides in the new strands?

**The sequence of bases in the template (original) strand**

3- When replication is complete, how many double-stranded DNA molecules are formed?

**2**

4- How do the two new DNA molecules compare to the original one?

**They are identical**

5- The process by which new molecules of DNA are formed is called

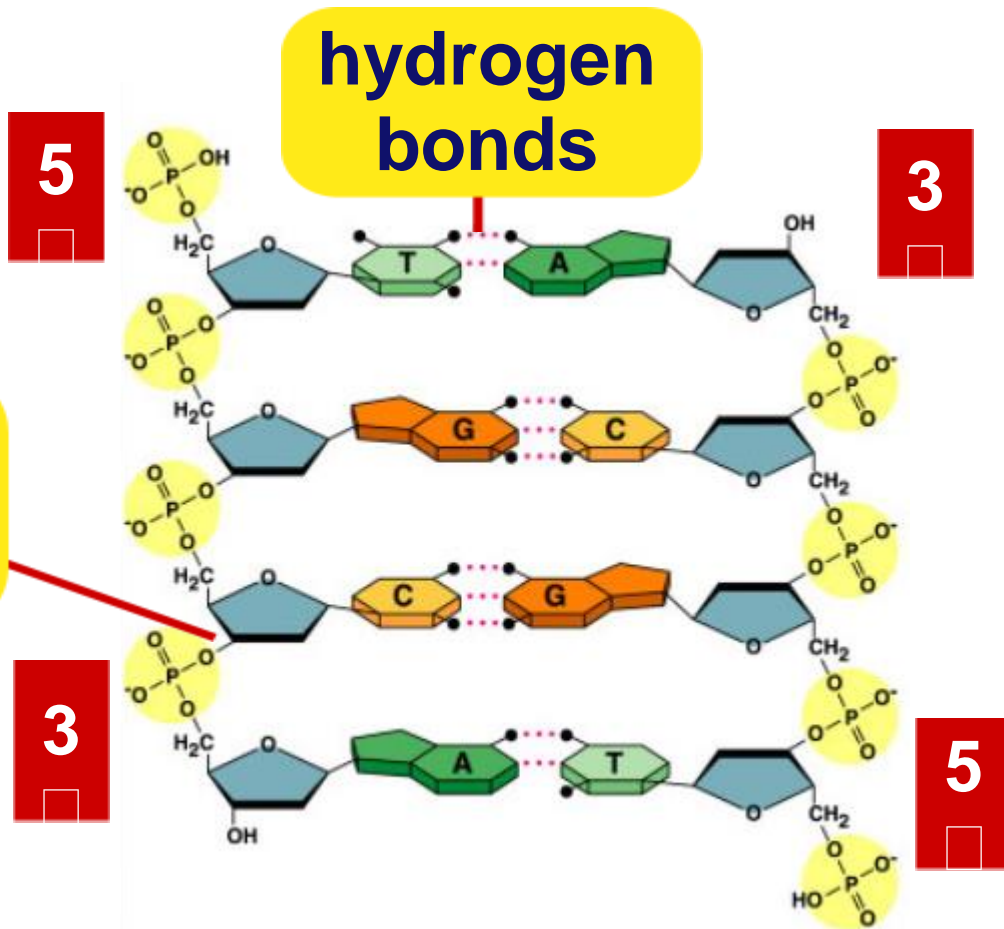
**replication**

# Bonding in DNA

**STRONG** covalent phosphodiester bonds between phosphate and sugar backbone

**covalent phosphodiester bonds**

**hydrogen bonds**



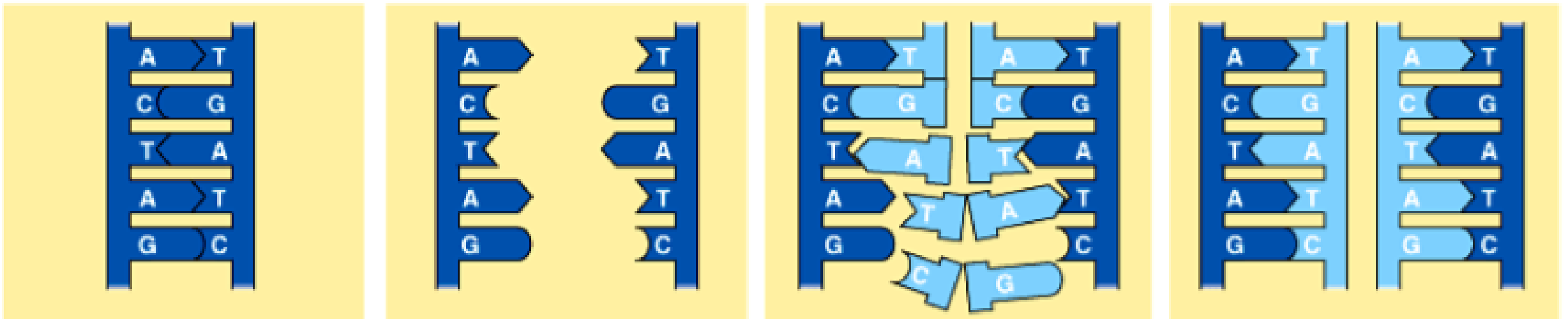
**WEAK** hydrogen bonds between bases are easily separated for DNA Replication

....**strong** or **weak** bonds?

How do the bonds fit the mechanism for copying DNA?

# DNA Replication

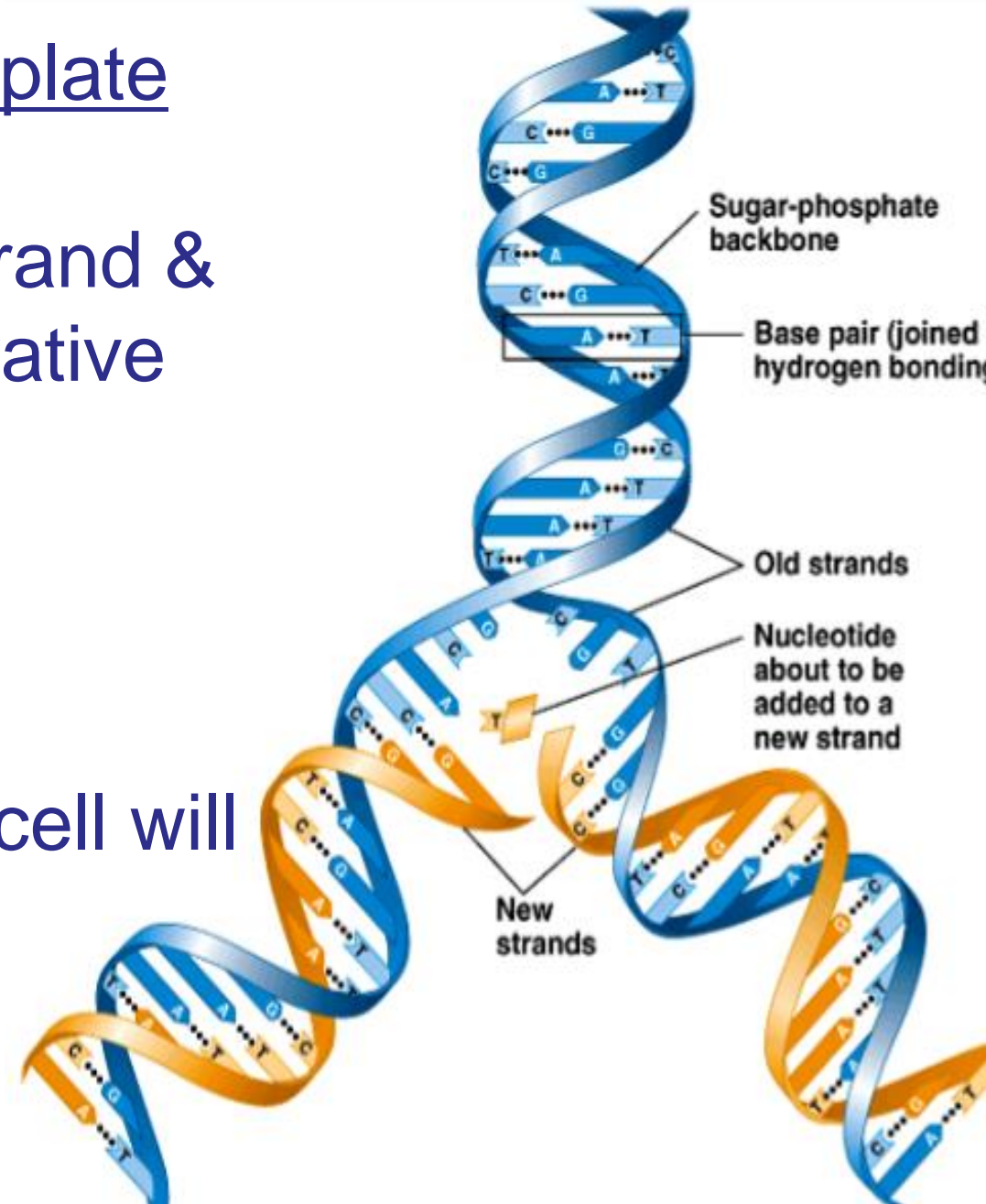
*“It has not escaped our notice that the specific pairing we have postulated immediately suggests a possible copying mechanism for the genetic material.” Watson & Crick*



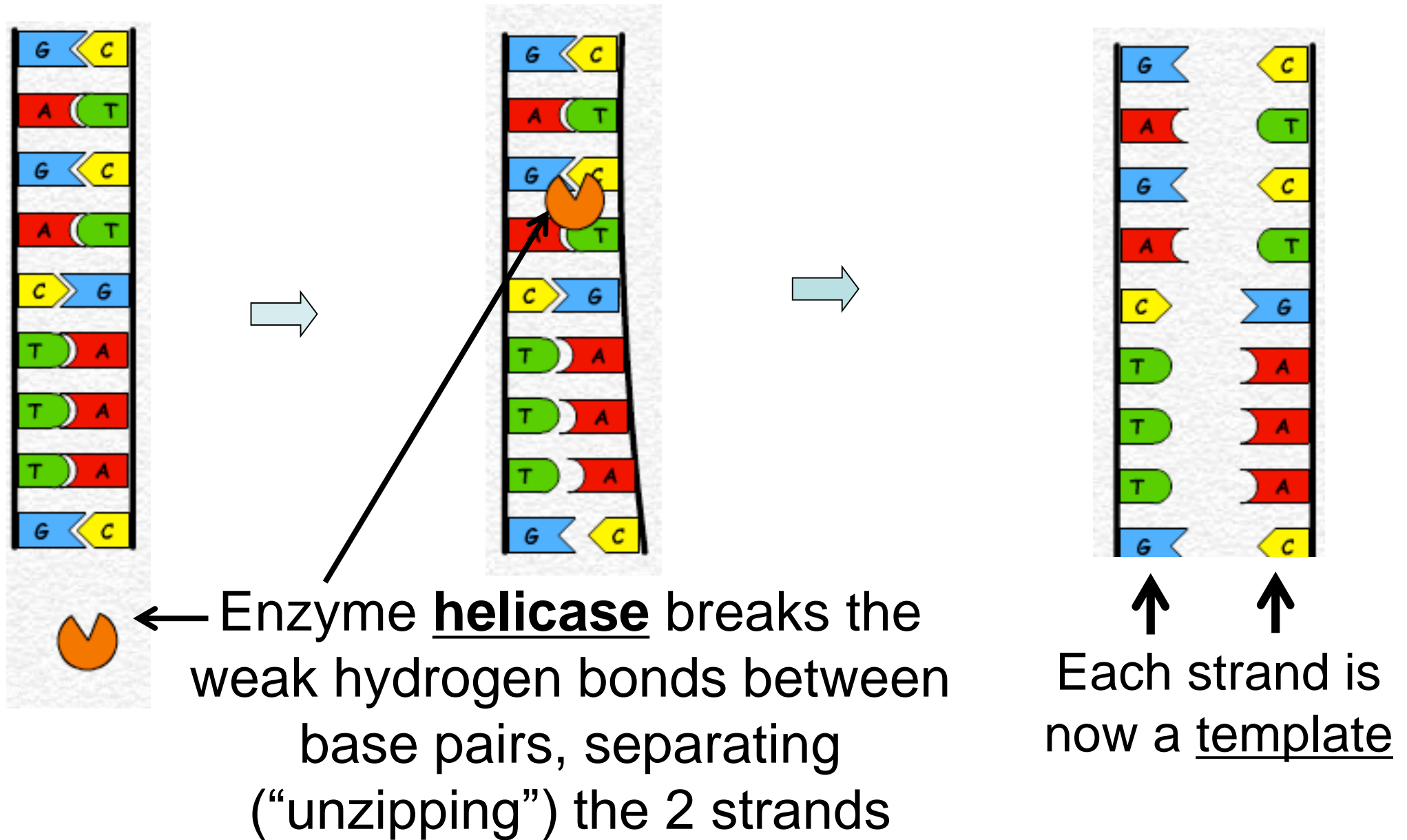
[DNA Replication overview \(simple schematic\)](#)

# Replication (copying DNA)

- Each strand serves as a template (model) for a new strand
- New strand is half original strand & half new DNA (semi-conservative model)
- Coordinated by enzymes
- Occurs before cell division (mitosis and meiosis)
- Ensures that each daughter cell will have a complete set of DNA

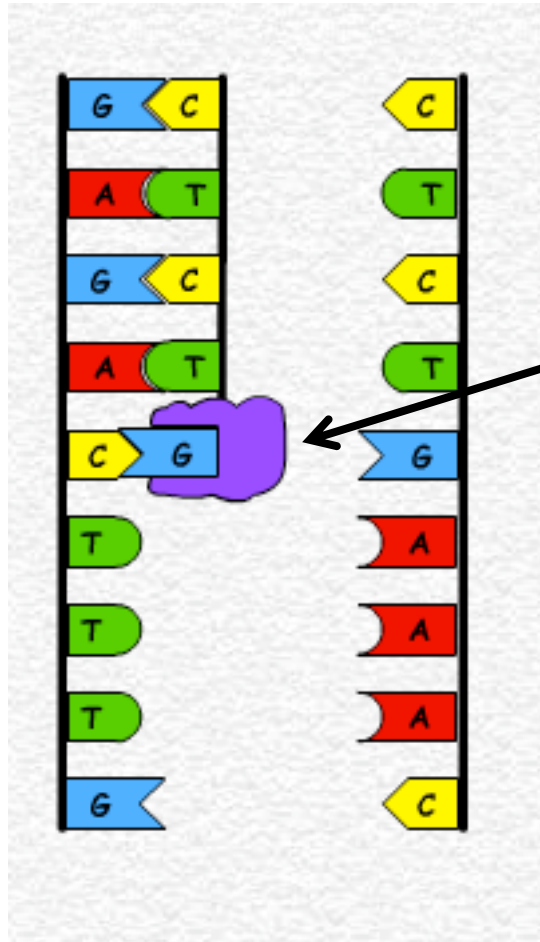


# DNA Replication – strands unzip and separate



# DNA Replication cont.

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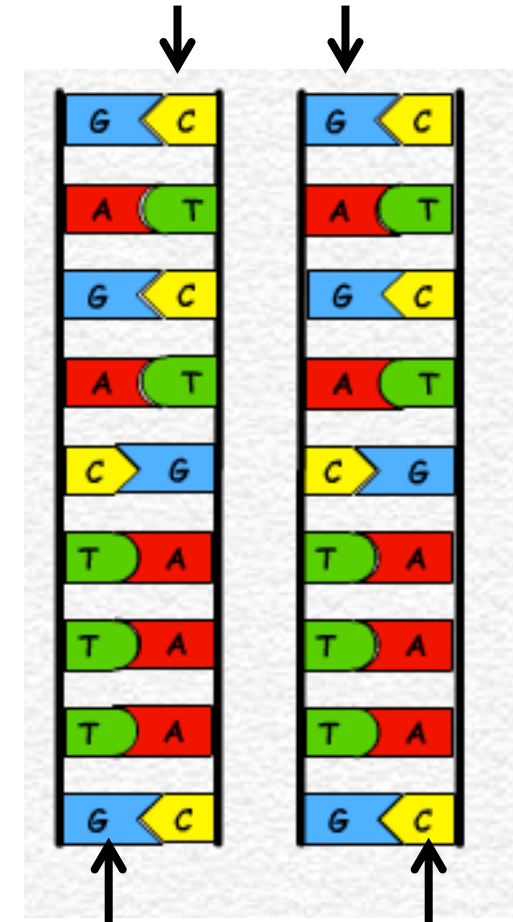
Enzyme **DNA Polymerase** adds new DNA nucleotides to match exposed bases

# DNA Replication – 2 identical strands of DNA

Other enzymes involved:

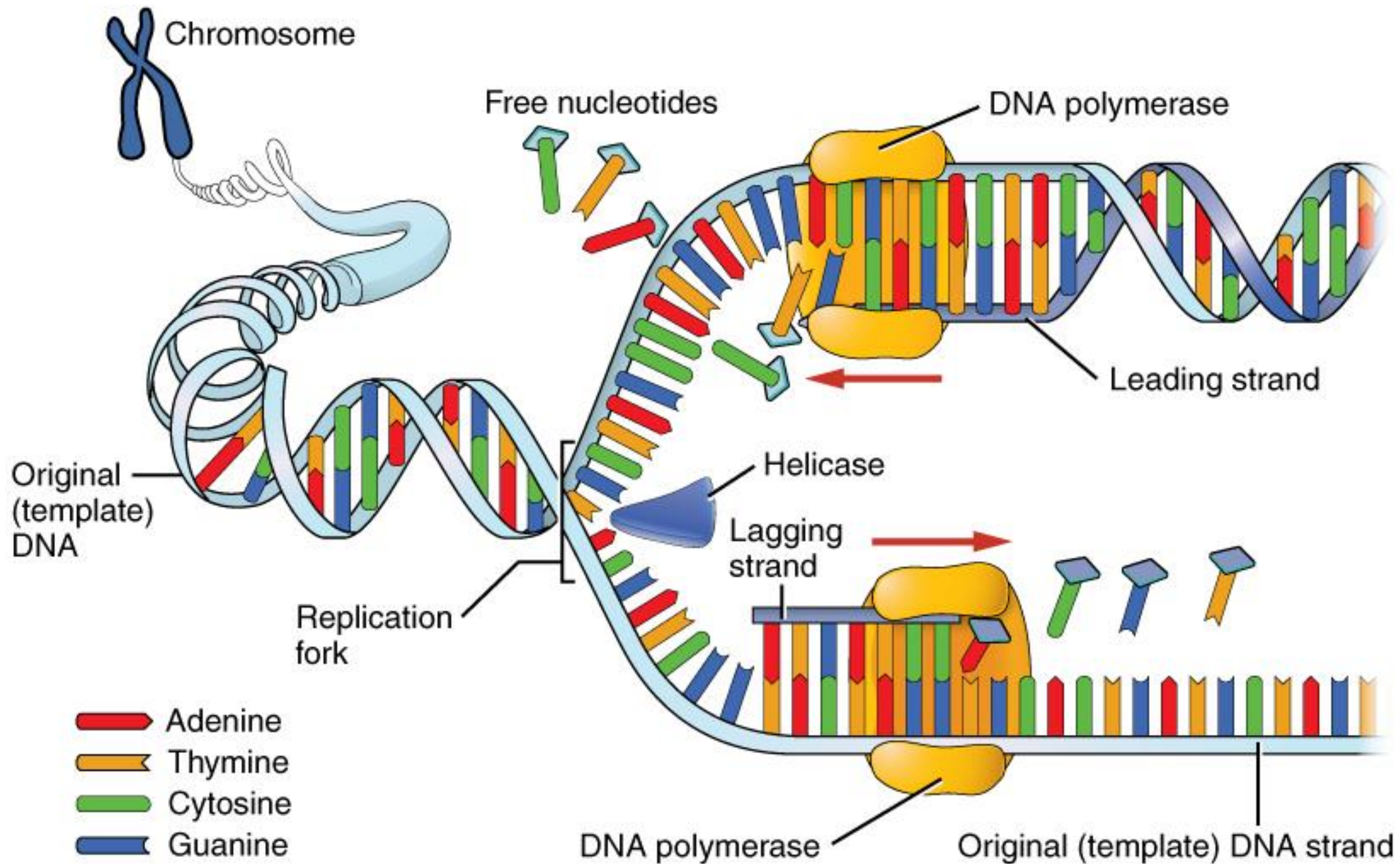
- **Primase** makes primers - short RNA sequences which mark a starting point for replication.
- **Ligase** repairs breaks in the sugar-phosphate backbone of **DNA** molecules.

Newly assembled DNA strands



Original DNA strands

**END  
RESULT is  
2 identical  
strands of  
DNA**







# Summary - Video Tutorial of DNA Replication

[Video - Amoeba Sisters DNA Replication](#)

Complete the worksheet while watching the video

# Build a DNA molecule – you try it!

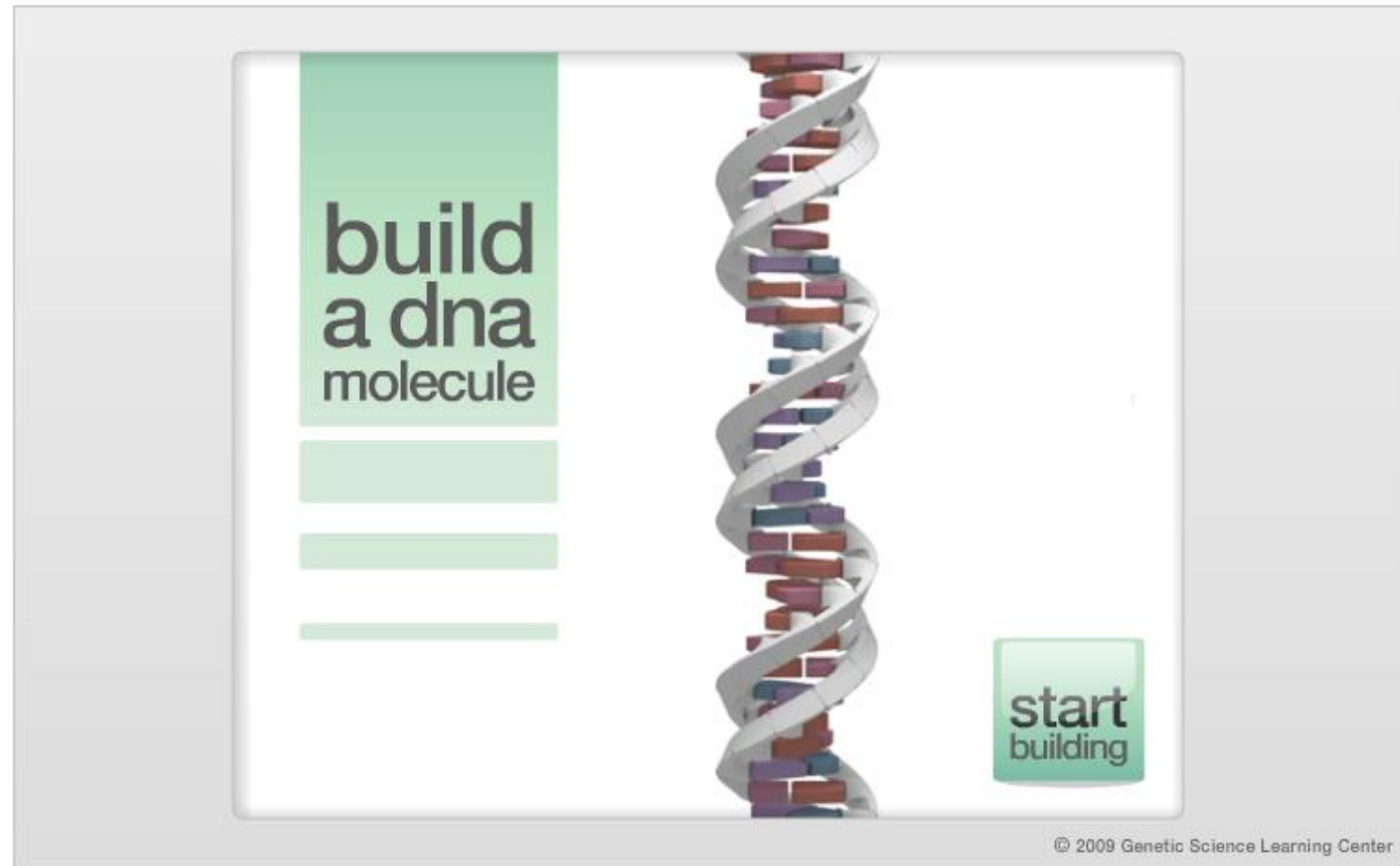
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HOME

DNA TO PROTEIN

BUILD A DNA MOLECULE

## BUILD A DNA MOLECULE



The screenshot shows a web interface for building a DNA molecule. On the left, there is a vertical green bar with the text "build a dna molecule" in black. Below this text are three horizontal green bars. In the center, there is a 3D model of a DNA double helix with a grey ribbon backbone and colorful base pairs (red, blue, purple, green). On the right, there is a green button with the text "start building" in white. At the bottom right of the interface, there is a copyright notice: "© 2009 Genetic Science Learning Center".



## DNA Webquest Links: Part 1 – History, DNA Structure, DNA Replication

Page 1

DNA History

<http://www.dnaftb.org/1/>

Page 2

<http://www.dnai.org/a/index.html>

DNA Replication

<http://www.stolaf.edu/people/giannini/flashanimat/molgenetics/dna-rna2.swf>

Page 3

<http://www.dnai.org/a/index.html>



## DNA Webquest Links: Part 2 – RNA, Transcription, Translation

Page 4

RNA

<http://www.dnaftb.org/21/>

Page 5

Transcription (DNA → RNA)

<http://www.stolaf.edu/people/giannini/flashanimat/molgenetics/transcription.swf>

DNAi website

<http://www.dnai.org/a/index.html>

Translation (mRNA → protein)

<http://www.stolaf.edu/people/giannini/flashanimat/molgenetics/translation.swf>

DNAi website

<http://www.dnai.org/a/index.html>