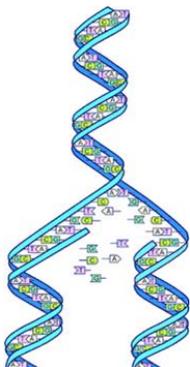


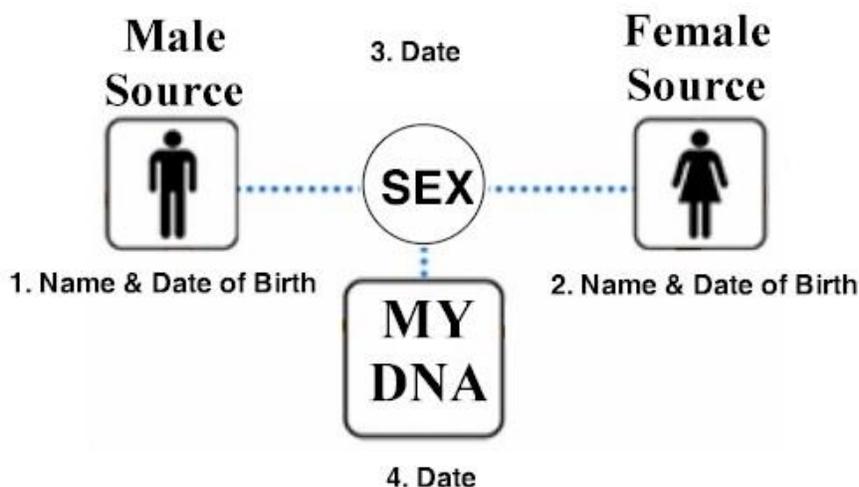
My DNA

The information you choose to nor not to record on these handouts is strictly for you. We will not ask for it and we strongly recommend that you keep it private at this time.
We understand that sexual reproduction can take place in different contexts and some may create difficult memories.



Until very recently, all new human life was created only through sexual reproduction. Today, in a very small percentage of cases, medical doctors, scientists and laboratories are part of the fertilization process.

In sexual reproduction, a male provides one-half of the DNA and a female provides the other half to create the DNA of their offspring. This reveals how identical the DNA of every person is. The two halves match up rung by rung with each other to produce a set of instructions for creating a complete human body.



Writing your story begins with the identifying the sources of your DNA. Beneath the numbers in the above graphic, fill in the requested information.

1. Name of the male source (sperm provider) of your DNA and his date of birth.
2. Name of the female source (egg provider) of your DNA and her date of birth.
3. Estimated date of sex. Subtract 9 months from your date of birth. Write the date of the Sunday on which that date occurred. For example, if after subtracting 9 months the date is a Wednesday, then back up to Sunday and write that date. For our purposes, “the week of” is close enough and will work well.

(We recommend that you print one page calendars for the years in which you were born and in which you were conceived. A search of “images” for those calendars on Google will result in numerous options. Keep them in your journal notebook.)

4. Look at the calendar and identify the Sunday of the week that was 3 weeks after the sex act. Write that date in #4 above. The sperm and egg do not unite during or immediately after sex. Three weeks later fertilization takes place and forms a one-celled entity called a zygote. It then travels down a fallopian tube toward uterus and begins dividing forming cluster of new cells. We call this process “booting up” in our discussions.

If you wrote the dates of birth for the male and female above, now determine how old they were at the time of sex and write that information under their dates of birth. Next create brief profiles for each person by answering the next questions. You may have little knowledge or no answers, but simply considering the questions may be very a beneficial exercise.

1. What was going on in their lives around the time they had sex?

2. Where did they live and how did they meet?

3. What were their levels of education then?