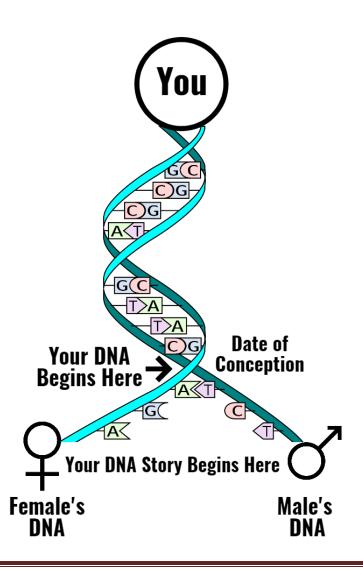
## **Exploring My DNA Story**

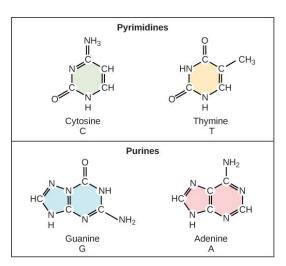
By Jim Myers

In my previous article, **Exploring Our Genetic Heritage**, I introduced **DNA**, **genes**, **chromosomes**, and **cells**. Genes are pieces of DNA, so that is why our stories begin with the creation of our DNA.

"Not one of your pertinent ancestors was squashed, devoured, starved, stranded, stuck fast, untimely wounded, or otherwise deflected from its life's quest of delivering a tiny charge of genetic material to the right partner at the right moment in order to perpetuate the only possible sequence of hereditary combinations that could result eventually, astoundingly, and all too briefly — in you."

The quote above is from Bill Bryson in, A Short History of Nearly Everything, and the genetic material is deoxyribonucleic acid ( $\underline{DNA}$ ). The  $\underline{DNA}$  is a  $\underline{four-letter\ chemical\ alphabet} - \underline{A}$  (adenine),  $\underline{T}$  (thymine),  $\underline{G}$  (guanine) &  $\underline{C}$  (cytosine). Be sure to note that the  $\underline{chemicals\ are\ the}$   $\underline{language}$ , not the English letters that represent them.





One half of your DNA came from a male, while the other half was coming from a female. The Date of Conception is when those two came together to form **your DNA**. Discoveries in quantum chemistry reveal that **A** (adenine) only attracts **T** (thymine) and **G** (guanine) only attracts **C** (cytosine). After the two strands of DNA split apart, they were able to perfectly produce your DNA structure because every half-rung naturally attracts its only partner. That is absolutely amazing to me!

The steps below will guide you and help you document what you discover. Dates of specific
events below are "ball-park" approximations, not actual dates. But they will be close enough
to use in this story. I suggest that you use Google to quickly discover the dates below.

<ul> <li><u>Determine the Date of Conception</u>. Ask Google this question – What was the date of</li> </ul>
39 weeks before (put your birthday in the blank). Conception takes
place 3 minutes to 5 days after having sex.
<ul> <li>Identify the male and female that provided each half of your DNA. Adding additional</li> </ul>
information will add more to your story - their ages, where they lived, things that were
going on in their lives, things that were going on where they lived, etc.
Name of Female
Nieuwe of Marie
Name of Male

In order to describe what happens after conception I will use the example of "apps like those on smartphones and computers" to describe what happens. These apps are automatically activated at specific times in all humans.

Use Google to fill in the blanks below for the dates below, which take place after conception.

I recommend that you print out this article and <u>fill in the dates by hand in order to keep the</u> <u>information secure.</u> Each date is based on <u>the number of weeks after conception</u>. The blank space is where you put the date.

•	_ (4 weeks) Central nervous system and heart begin to develop.
•	_ (5 weeks) Heart begins to beat.
•	_ (6 weeks) Facial features begin to form.
•	_ (8 weeks) Arms, legs, fingers, nose, and upper lip begin to form.
•	_ (9 weeks) Eyes begin to develop.
•	_ (10 weeks) Fingernails and toenails begin to form. Brain, kidneys, intestines, and liver begin to function.
•	_ (11 weeks) Bones begin to harden; genitalia begin to develop.
•	_ (14 weeks) Kidneys are producing urine; facial expressions detected.
•	_ (15 weeks) Eyes detect light that filters in from outside womb.
•	(16 weeks) External gender organs detectable.

•	_ (19 weeks) Ears detect mother's heartbeat and sounds outside her body.
•	_ (23 weeks) Sense of movement has developed.
•	_ (24 weeks) Taste buds developing; hair beginning to grow; brain growing very quickly (250,000 new neurons added per minute).
•	(27 weeks) Lungs developing; sleeping and waking up at regular intervals opening and closing eyes; sucking fingers.
•	_ (28 weeks) May be dreaming; has eyelashes; eyesight improving; brain now has billions of neurons.
•	_ (32 weeks) Fingernails and toenails developed; starting to plump up.
•	_ (34 weeks) Lungs and central nervous system continuing to develop; skin is soft and smooth; body filling out.
•	_ (39 weeks) Full-term; ready for life outside the womb as a social creature dependent on other humans for the rest of life.

DNA is the universal language that creates 3 million species; one of which is humans. Each specie has its own genome (specific set of letters) which governs its specific timetable (group of apps) for its development. Every human has a genome which consists of 3 billion letters. The DNA in every one of us is 99% the same as that of all other humans.

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## **SOURCES:**

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