

We All Have a DNA Story

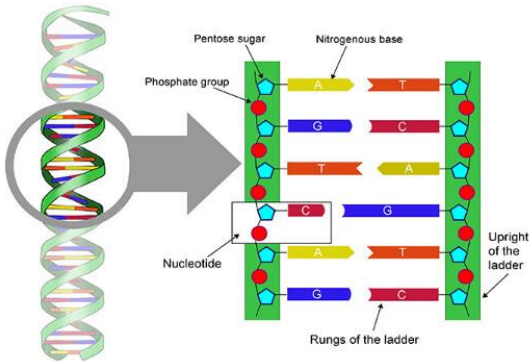
All DNA stories of humans, until the 21st century, began like this.

“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.” (Bill Bryson, A Short History of Nearly Everything)

This sums up why almost all humans exist:

A male delivered a tiny charge of genetic material to a female at the right moment in order to perpetuate the only possible sequence of genetic combinations that could result eventually in you, your parents, your grandparents, your great grandparents, etc.

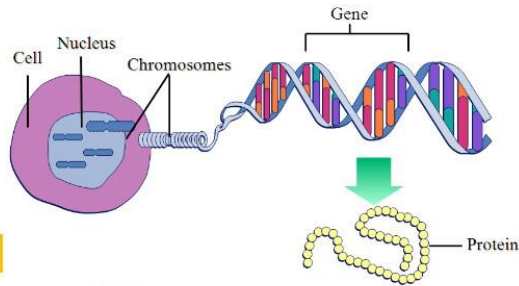
That “genetic material” is called **DNA** -- *deoxyribonucleic acid*.



Our DNA code is written in a four letter chemical alphabet – A (adenine), T (thymine), G (guanine) & C (cytosine).

Notice that A is always linked to T and G is always linked to C.

A gene is a specific section of DNA and genes are part of chromosomes, which are found in the nucleus of cells.



Our DNA Code consists of three billion letters.

Humans have about 19,000 genes.



More than a chicken.



About the same as a cat.



Less than an earthworm.



Fewer than a tomato.

We are members of one of three million species with a DNA code.

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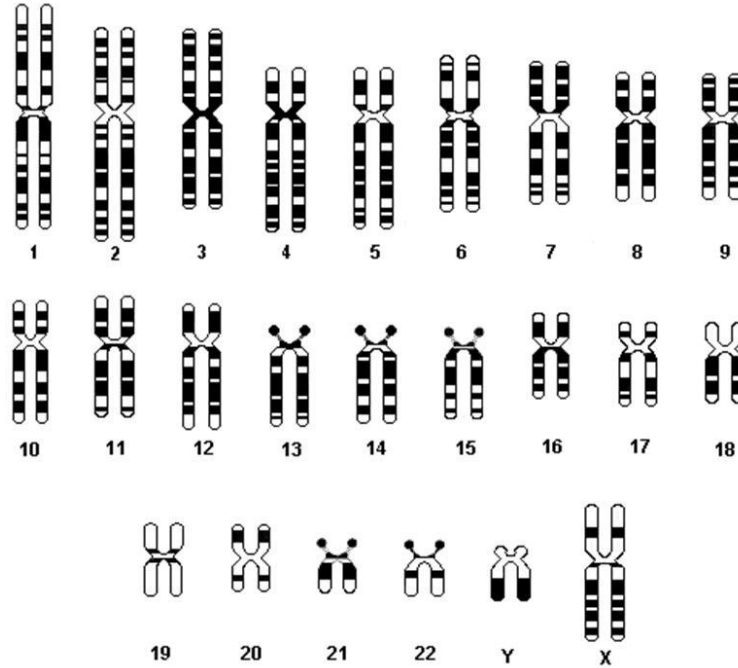
All Discussions About Human Behaviors Begin Here!

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The complete DNA code of a specie is called a genome. The human genome, if printed out, would fill a space about the size of 800 bibles. A complete copy of your genome is stored in each cell of your body. An average body contains approximately 37.2 trillion cells and each cell contains about 6 feet of DNA thread. That means there is a total of approximately 3 billion miles of DNA thread inside of every person.

Our DNA code contains instructions for making our bodies -- *eyes, ears, skin, fingernails, hearts, brains, livers, feet, bones, stomachs, elbows, skin, etc.*

Each cell also contains 23 pairs of chromosomes (46 chromosomes in total).



Twenty-two of the pairs of chromosomes are the same in all people. The 23rd pair, the sex chromosomes, differs between males and females. Females have two X chromosomes. Males have one X and one Y chromosome. Our DNA code also contains epigenetic memories, instructions and a lot other things science has not figured out yet.

The DNA codes of all humans are 99% identical.

Summary

- *We are all creatures created by DNA codes that are 99% percent genetically the same as each other.*
- *Our physical bodies are the product of our DNA codes.*
- *We also have epigenetic memories in our DNA codes and instructions that are genetically hardwired.*

SOURCES:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DNA>

<https://www.23andme.com/gen101/genes/>

<http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/handbook/basics/howmanychromosomes>