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Chromosomes

- Chromosomes are made up of Proteins and DNA
- DNA carries the genetic information
- This information is similar to digital information





Essential Molecules

 Proteins make up the cell matrix as well as carry out all biochemical reactions which sustain life as we know it
 So DNA & Proteins are both essential molecules of life

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RNA (Ribonucleic Acid) DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid)

RNA



DNA

The carrier of genetic information for all complex organisms.

 Long polymer consisting of 4 bases

Base, Nucleoside & Nucleotide

• Nitrogenous bases:

Adenine Guanine Cytosin Thymine uracil

- Nucleoside: Base + Sugar
- Nucleotide: Base + Sugar + Phosphate

DNA Chain



Base pairing in DNA double helix



G/C = 1.0





The Double Helix

DNA molecules usually consist of two strands arranged in the famous double helix



Watson-Crick Base Pairs

A bonds to TC bonds to G







The Double Helix

- each strand of DNA has a "direction"
 - at one end, the terminal carbon atom in the backbone is the 5' carbon atom of the terminal sugar
 - at the other end, the terminal carbon atom is the 3' carbon atom of the terminal sugar
- therefore we can talk about the 5' and the 3' ends of a DNA strand
- in a double helix, the strands are antiparallel (arrows drawn from the 5' end to the 3' end go in opposite directions)



RNA

RNA is like DNA except:

- backbone is a little different
- usually single stranded
- the base uracil (U) is used in place of thymine (T)
- a strand of RNA can be thought of as a string composed of the four letters: A, C, G, U