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BIFX-550

Discussion Questions

2/1/2022

* What is the key difference between Linus Pauling’s DNA model and Watson and Crick’s model?

Pauling’s consisted of three intertwined chains with phosphates near the fiber axis. Watson and Crick’s has two helical chains coiled around the same axis, held together by purine and pyrimidine bases on the inside, and supported by phosphate backbone on the outside.

* What was the key conclusion of Watson and Crick’s paper?

Purine and pyrimidine bases bind with one another: Adenine with Thymine and Guanine with Cytosine. It may hint at a possible copying mechanism for genetic material. This is a core and integral detail of their new proposed structure.