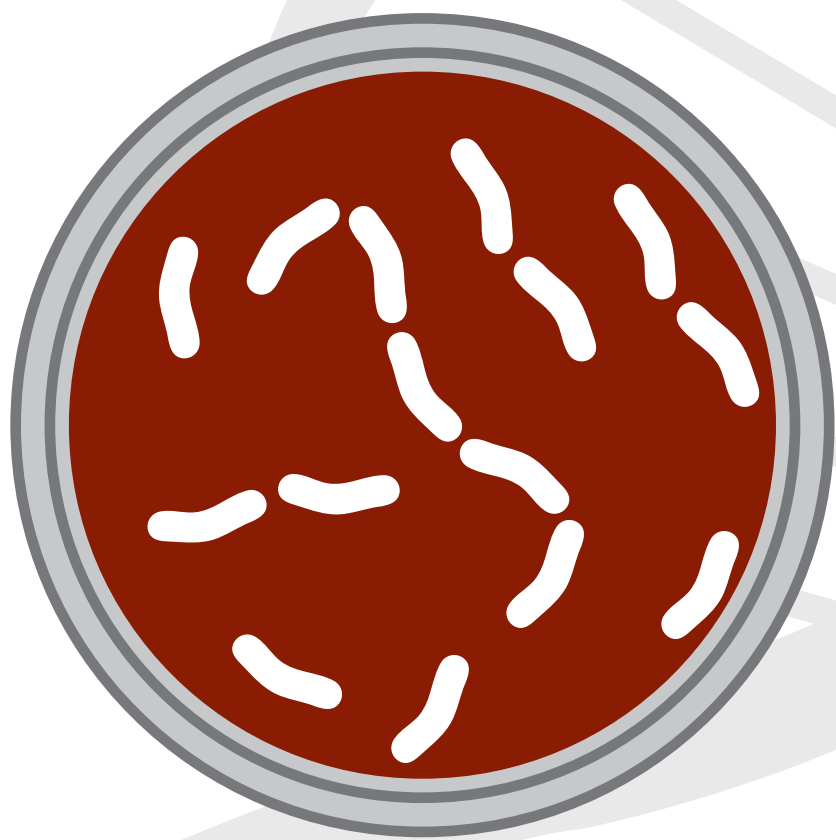


# The Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) Process

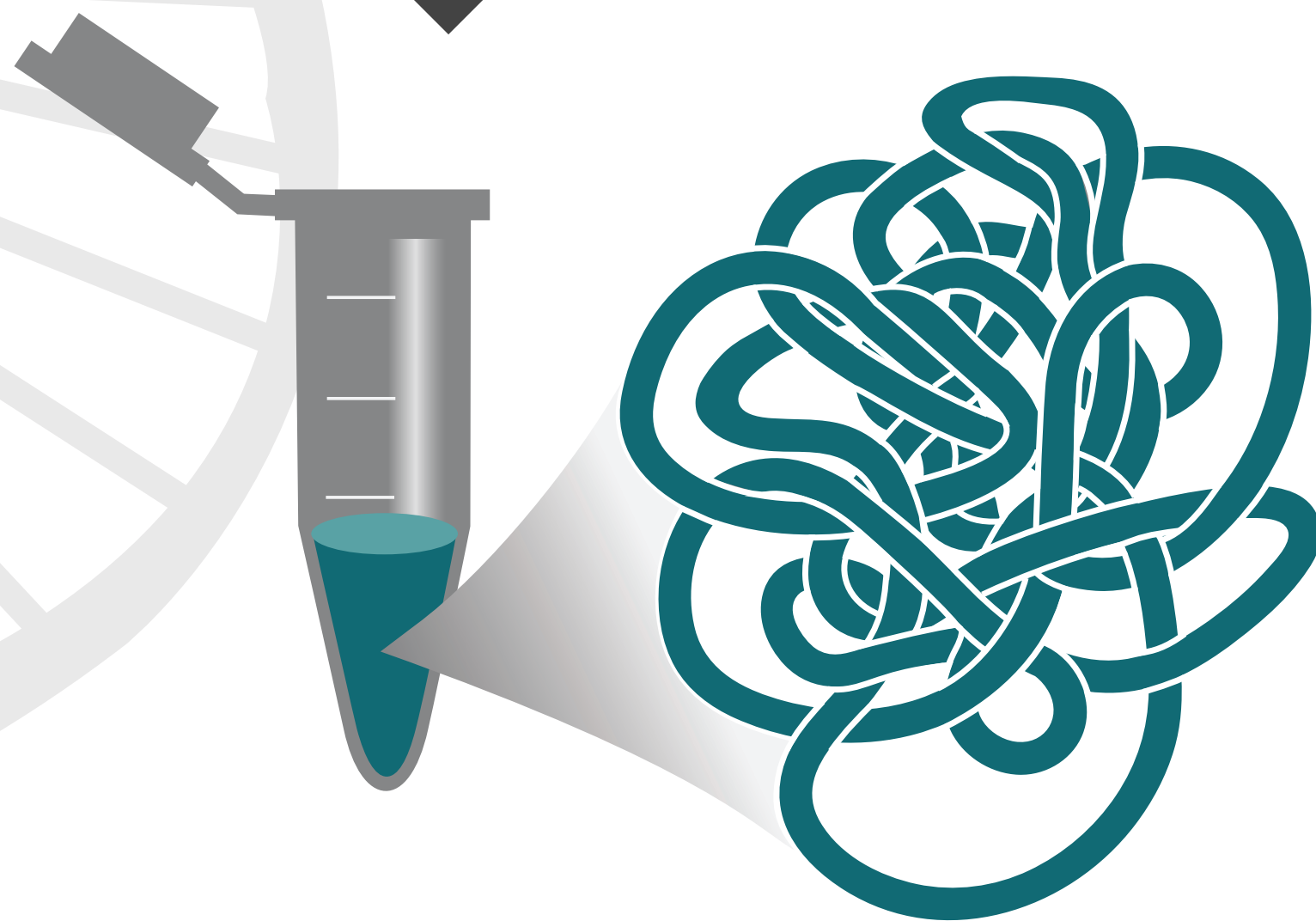
WGS is a laboratory procedure that determines the order of bases in the genome of an organism in one process. WGS provides a very precise DNA fingerprint that can help link cases to one another allowing an outbreak to be detected and solved sooner.

## Bacterial Culture



1. DNA Extraction

- 1 Scientists take bacterial cells from an agar plate and treat them with chemicals that break them open, releasing the DNA. The DNA is then purified.



2. DNA Shearing

- 2 DNA is cut into short fragments of known length, either by using enzymes “molecular scissors” or mechanical disruption.



3. DNA Library Preparation

- 3 Scientists make many copies of each DNA fragment using a process called polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The pool of fragments generated in a PCR machine is called a “DNA library.”

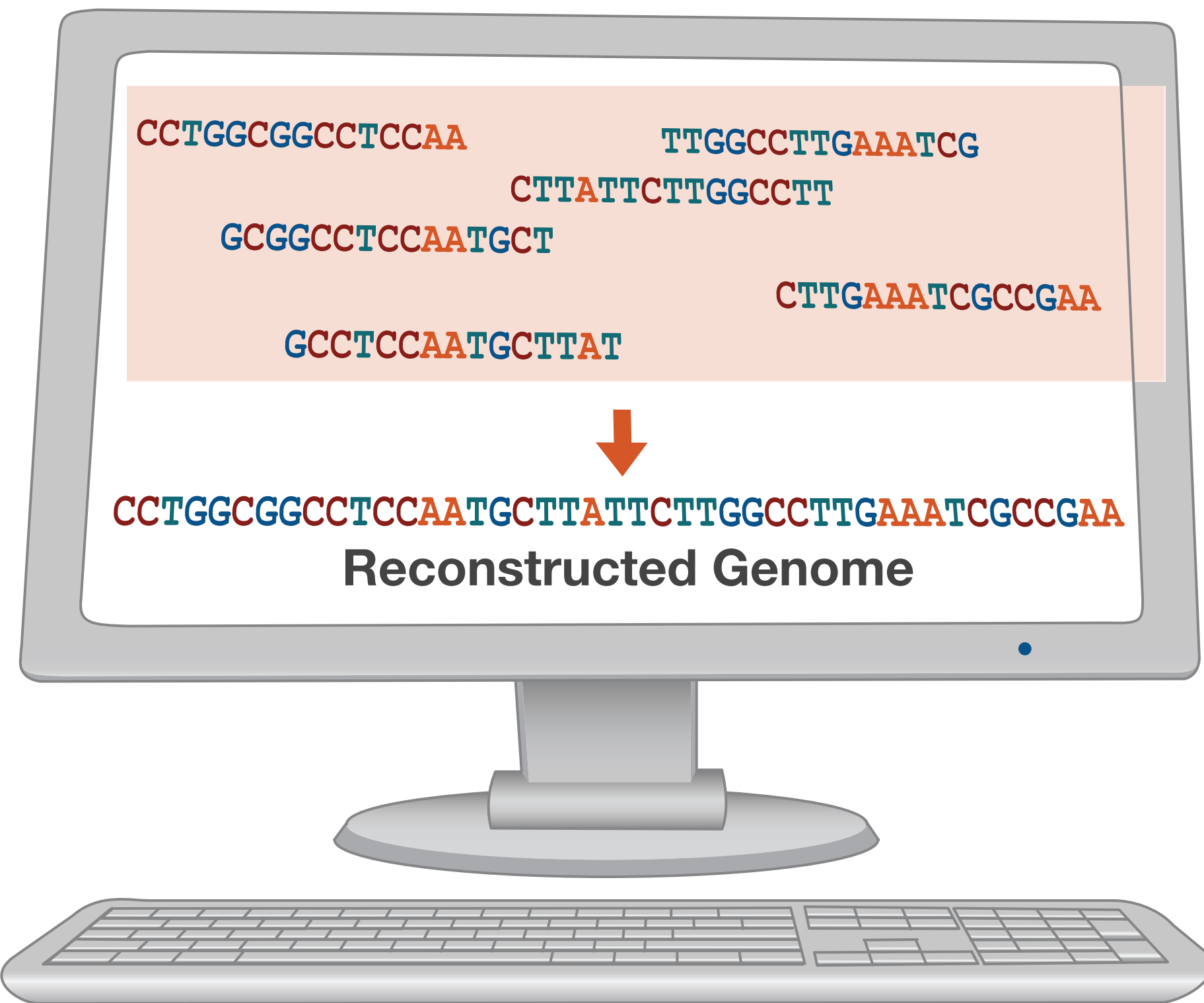


4. DNA Library Sequencing

- 4 The DNA library is loaded onto a sequencer. The combination of nucleotides (A, T, C, and G) making up each individual fragment of DNA is determined, and each result is called a “DNA read.”



5. DNA Sequence Analysis



- 5 The sequencer produces millions of DNA reads and specialized computer programs are used to put them together in the correct order like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. When completed, the genome sequence containing millions of nucleotides (in one or a few large pieces) is ready for further analysis.