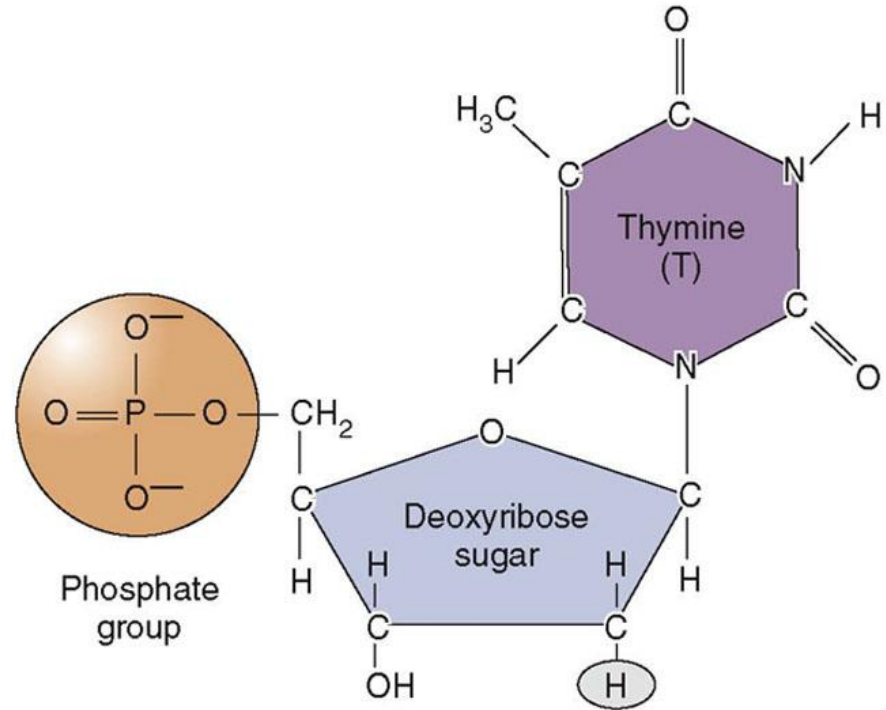


Nucleic Acids

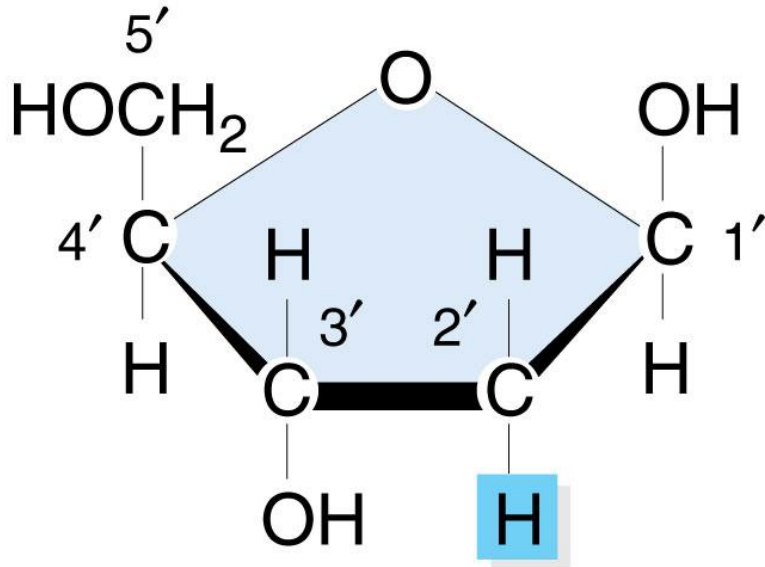
- The **largest biological molecules**
- Store and transfer information within a cell
- Include **DNA and RNA**
- Are made of nucleotides
 - **5-carbon sugar**
 - **Phosphate group**
 - **Nitrogenous base**

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(a) Nucleotide

5-carbon sugar

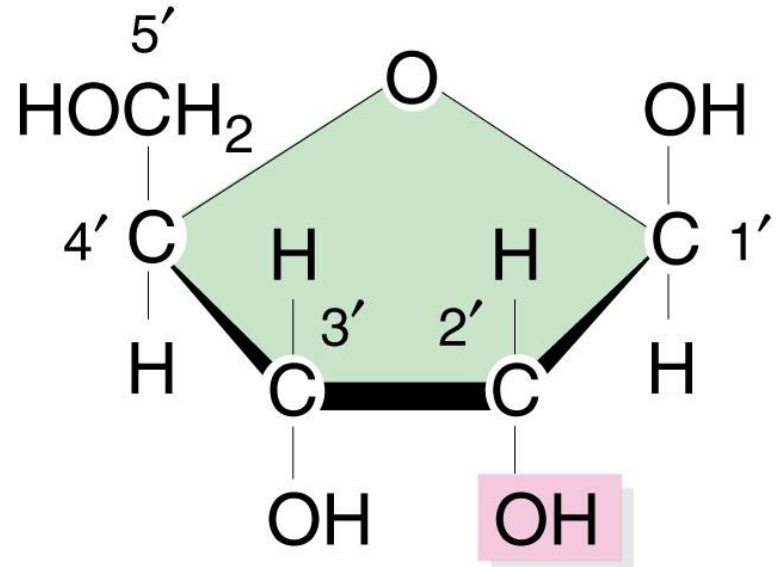


Deoxyribose

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DNA

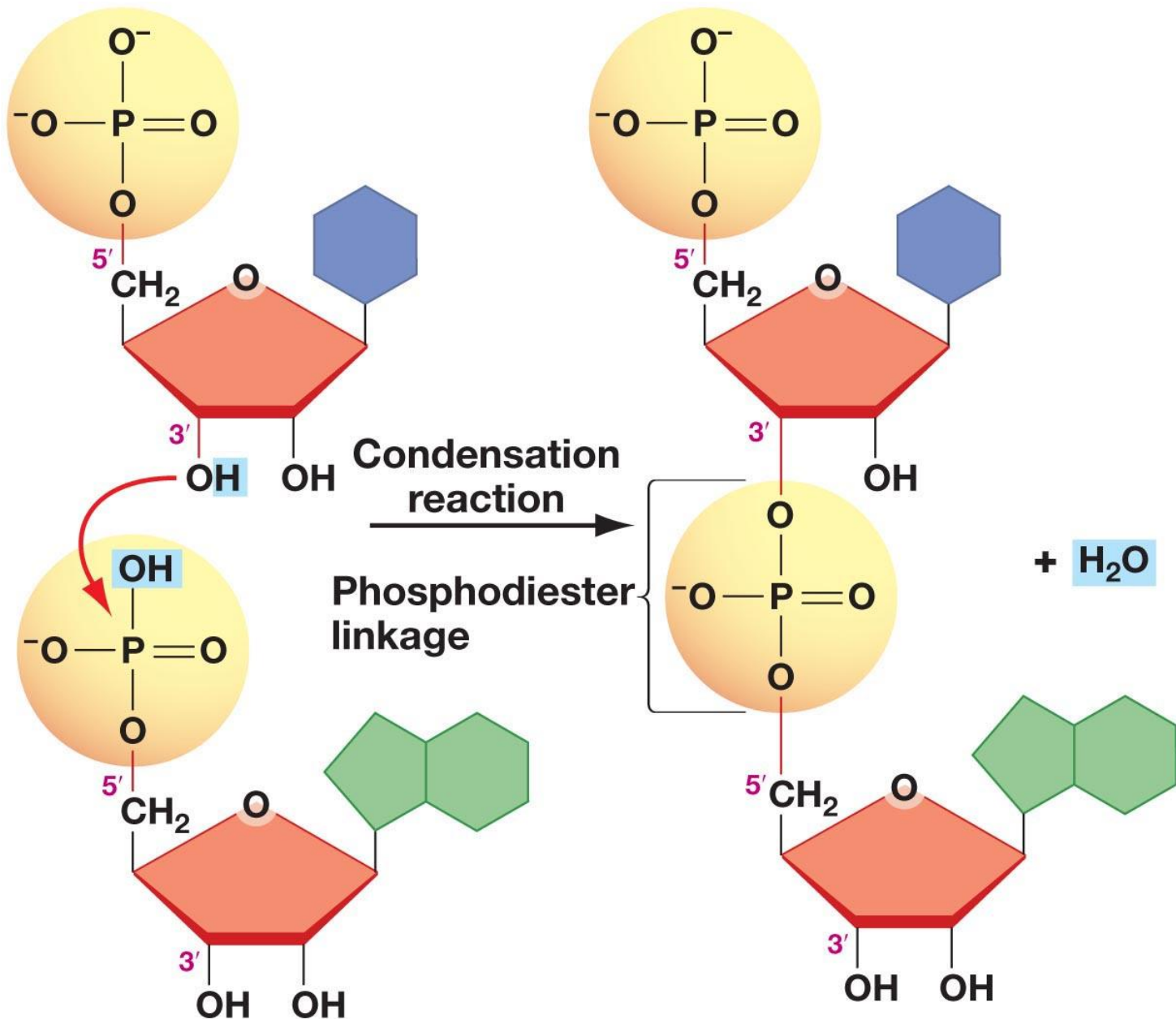


Ribose

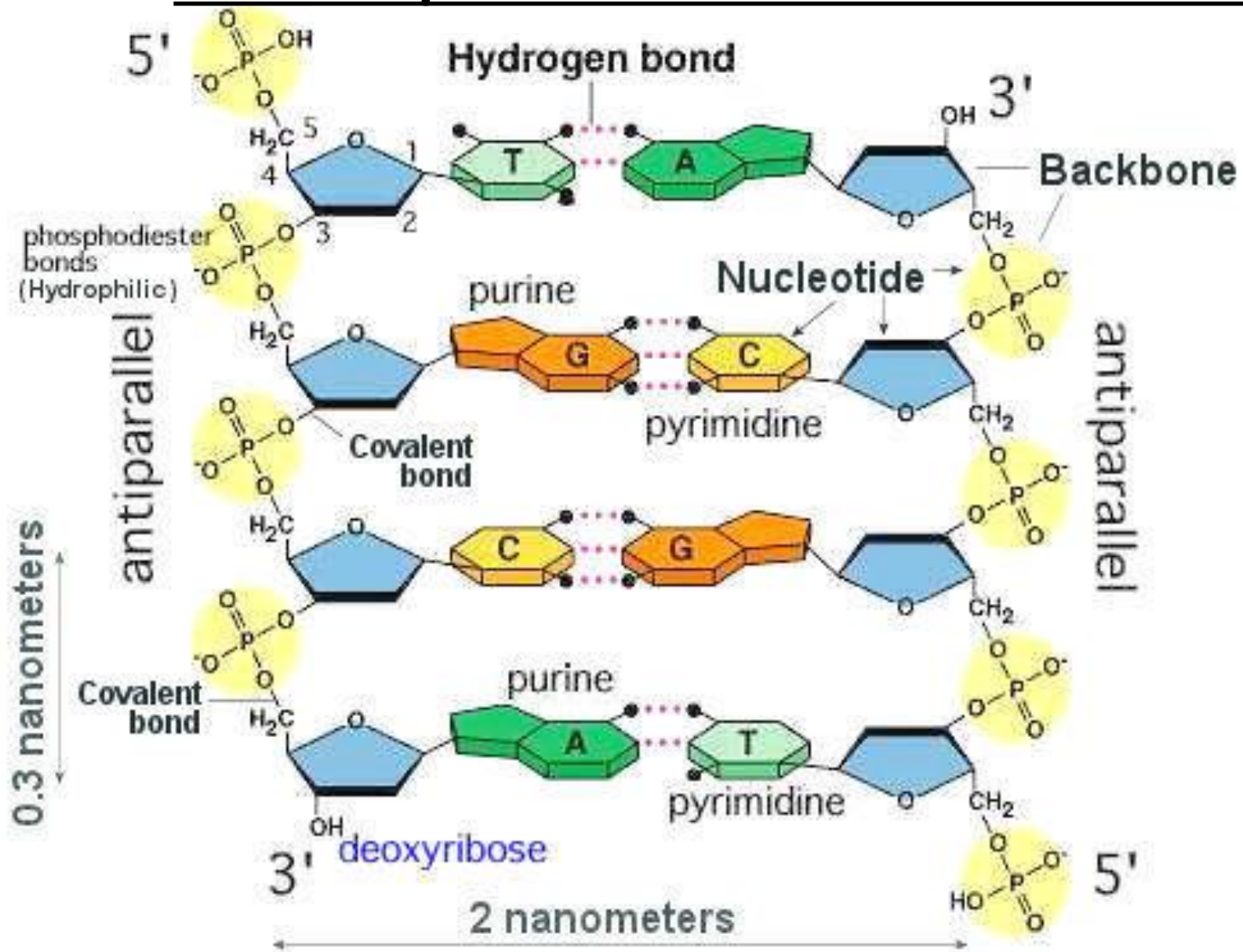


RNA

Sugar-phosphate backbone in Nucleic Acids



The Components and Structure of DNA



DNA Structure and Function

DNA accomplishes the following:

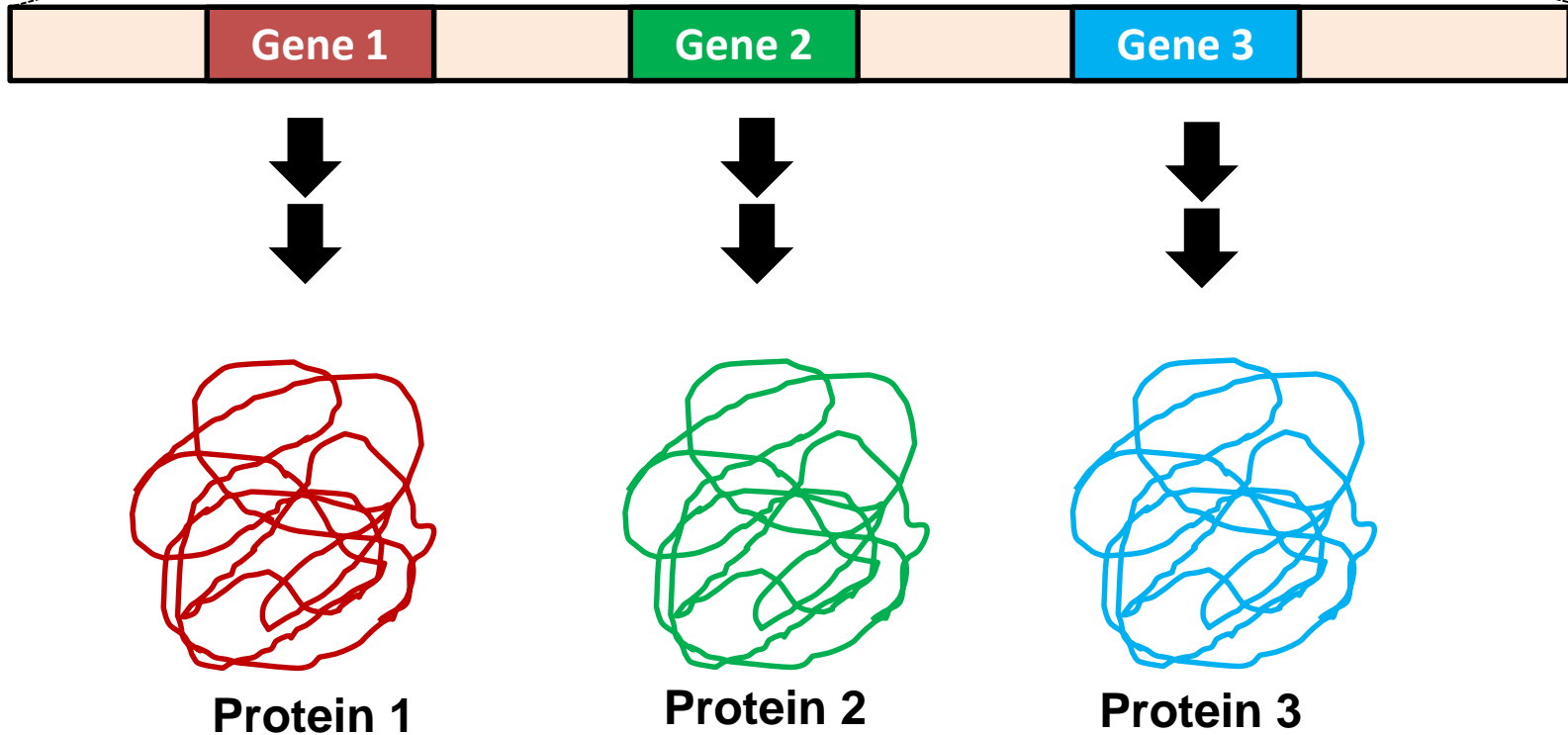
- Passes genetic information to the next generation
- Puts those information to work by controlling the synthesis of proteins
- Is copied easily so that cell's genetic information is replicated every time a cell divides.

DNA is able to accomplish these things because of its unique structure.

DNA and Chromosomes

- Each DNA strand is divided into segments.
 - Each segment forms a **gene**.
 - Genes are the recipes for proteins.
 - *The sequence of nucleotides in a gene dictate the order of amino acids in a polypeptide.*
- Each DNA strand has many **genes**.
- Each DNA strand is called a **chromosome**.

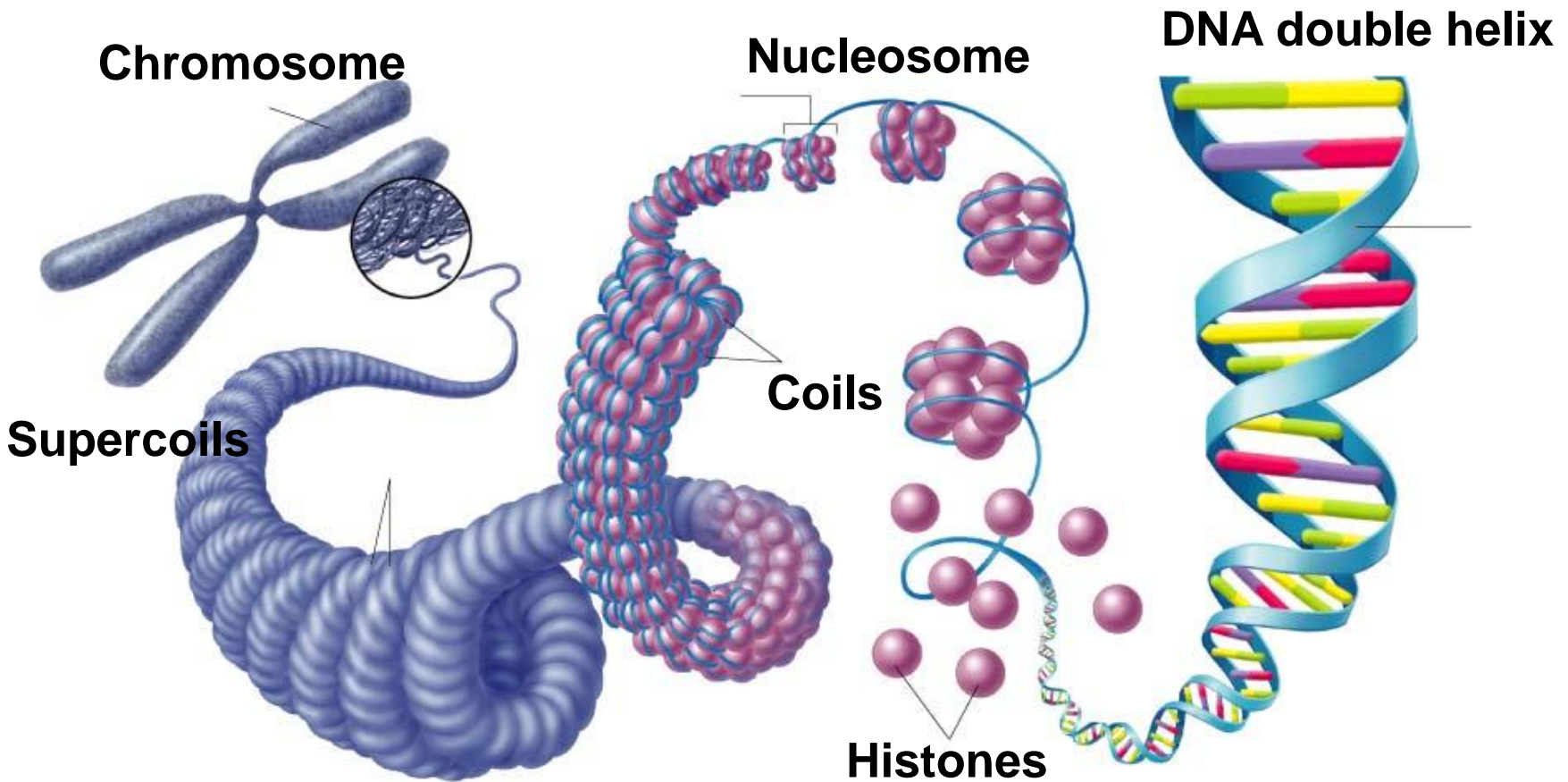
Chromosome



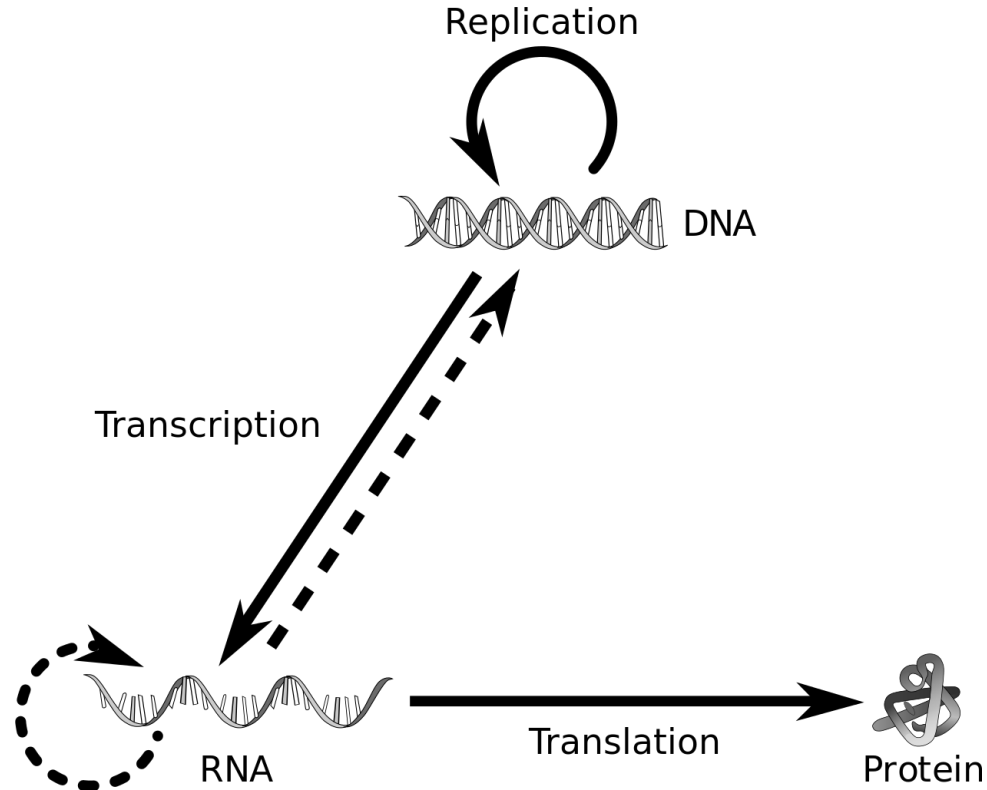
Human cells have 46 chromosomes in each cell.

Each cell copies all of these chromosomes before it divides to pass along to daughter cells.

Chromosome Structure of Eukaryotes

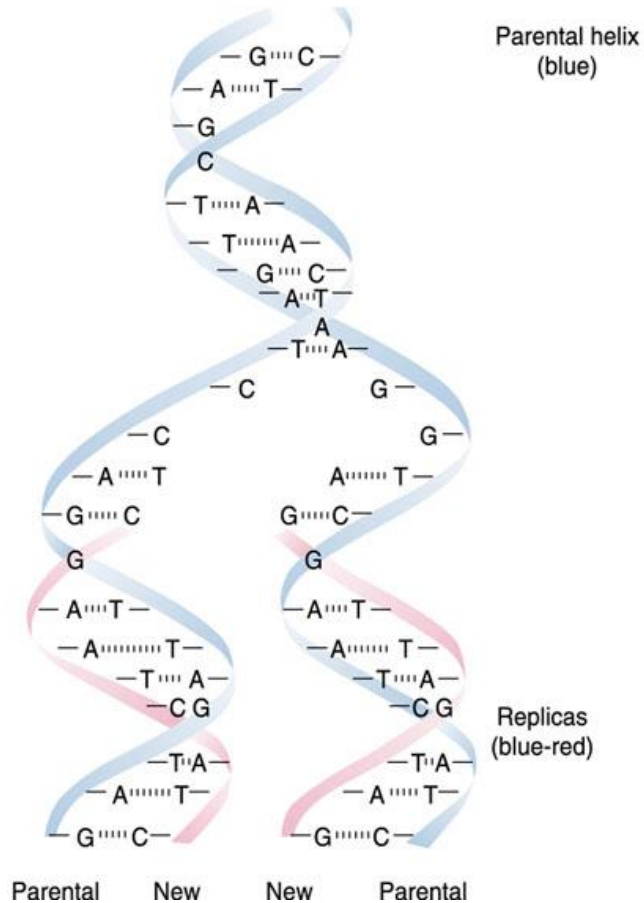


Central Dogma of Molecular Biology

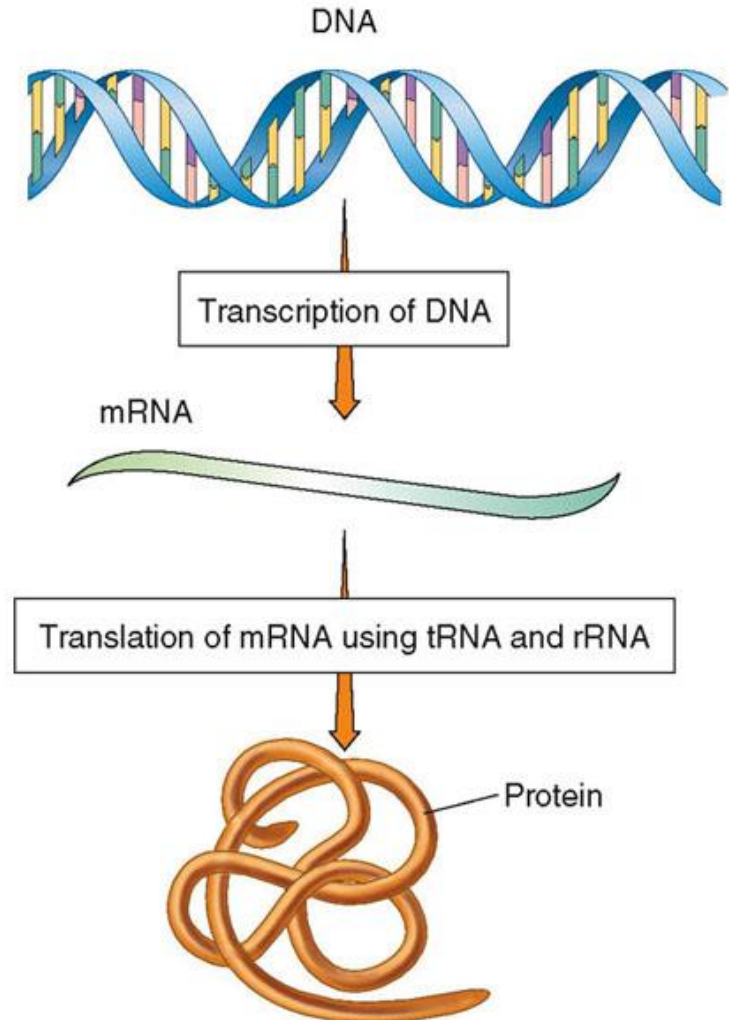


The Functions of DNA

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Base Pairing Aids DNA Replication

- **DNA replication**
 - Is the process by which **DNA is copied**
 - This is done **before cell division.**
 - Provides the new cells with a **copy of the genetic information**
 - Relies on the **base-pairing rules**

Base Pairing Aids DNA Replication

**Parental (Template)
Strands**

**Daughter
Strands**



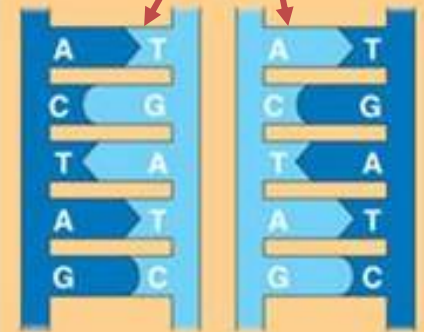
(a) The parent molecule has two complementary strands of DNA. Each base is paired by hydrogen bonding with its specific partner, A with T and G with C.



(b) The first step in replication is separation of the two DNA strands.



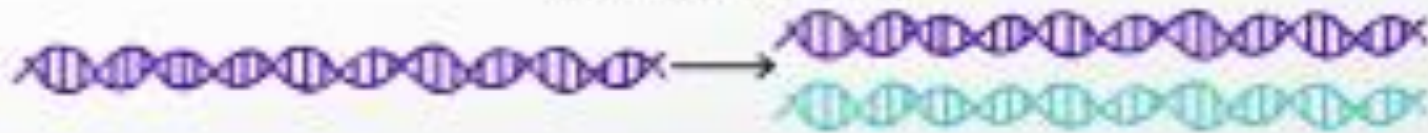
(c) Each parental strand now serves as a template that determines the order of nucleotides along a new, complementary strand.



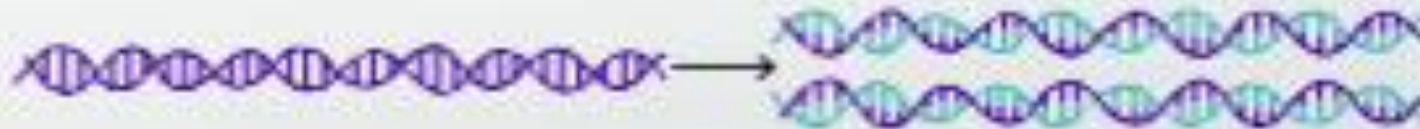
(d) The nucleotides are connected to form the sugar-phosphate backbones of the new strands. Each "daughter" DNA molecule consists of one parental strand and one new strand.

Conservative, Semi conservative or Dispersive mode of DNA replication?

Conservative



Semi-Conservative



Dispersive



DNA Replication could be divided into three phases:

- Initiation**
- Elongation**
- Termination**

Initiation of DNA replication starts at **Origin of Replication.**

Enzyme **helicase** unwinds and breaks H-bonds of the double stranded DNA

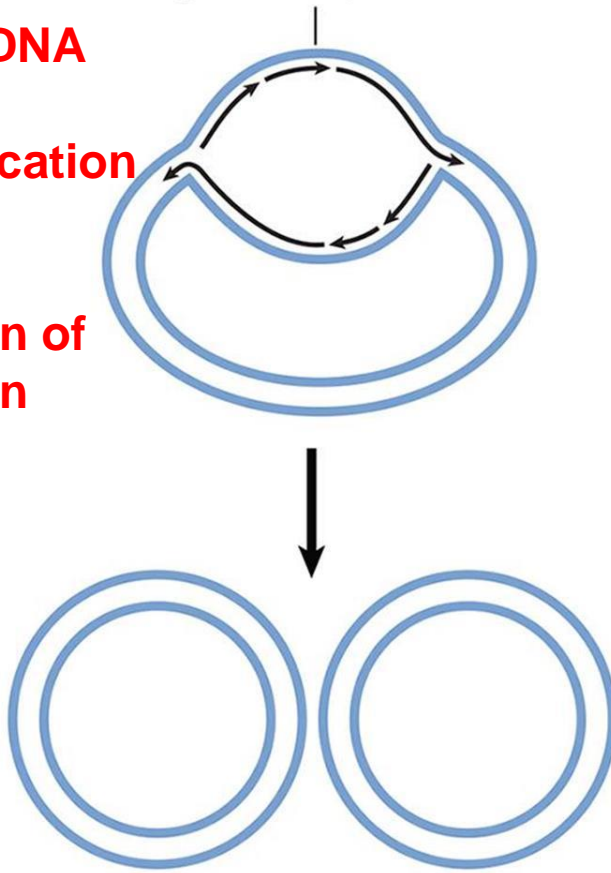
The **single-stranded binding proteins** stabilize the separated strands

Initiation starts at Origin of Replication

Prokaryotes

origin of replication

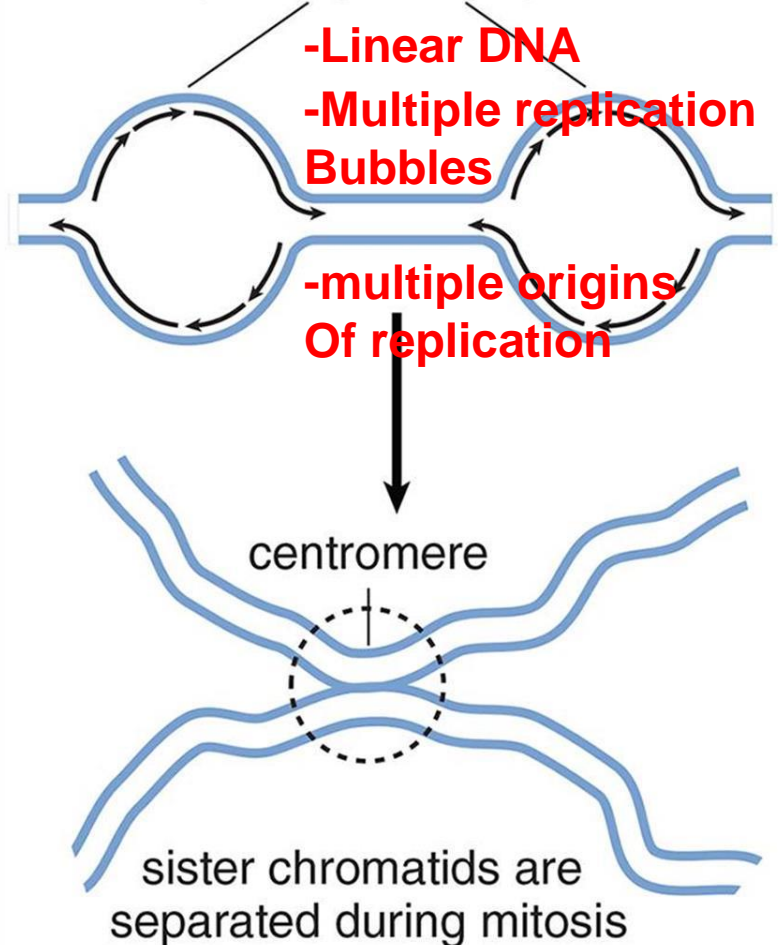
- Circular DNA
- One replication Bubble
- One origin of replication



Eukaryotes

multiple origins of replication

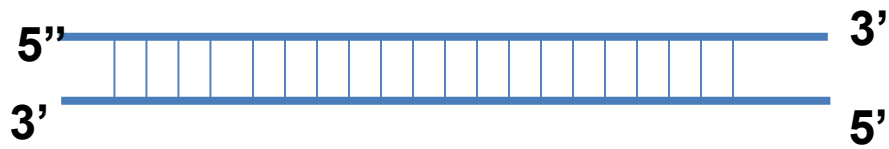
- Linear DNA
- Multiple replication Bubbles
- multiple origins of replication



Properties of DNA polymerases

Enzyme **DNA polymerase III** builds new DNA strands that will pair with each old DNA strand by A-T, G-C manner

- All DNA polymerases **require a primer**
 - RNA primer, synthesized by **Primase** (Enzyme **Primase** adds a small piece of RNA called a primer. DNA nucleotides can only be added to the **3' end of an existing chain**)
- DNA polymerases add bases only from the **5'-3' direction**
- All DNA polymerases have 3'-5' exonuclease activity (**proofreading ability**)



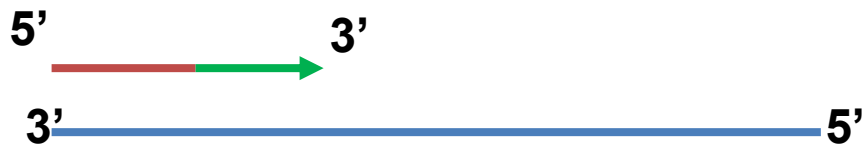
Helicase

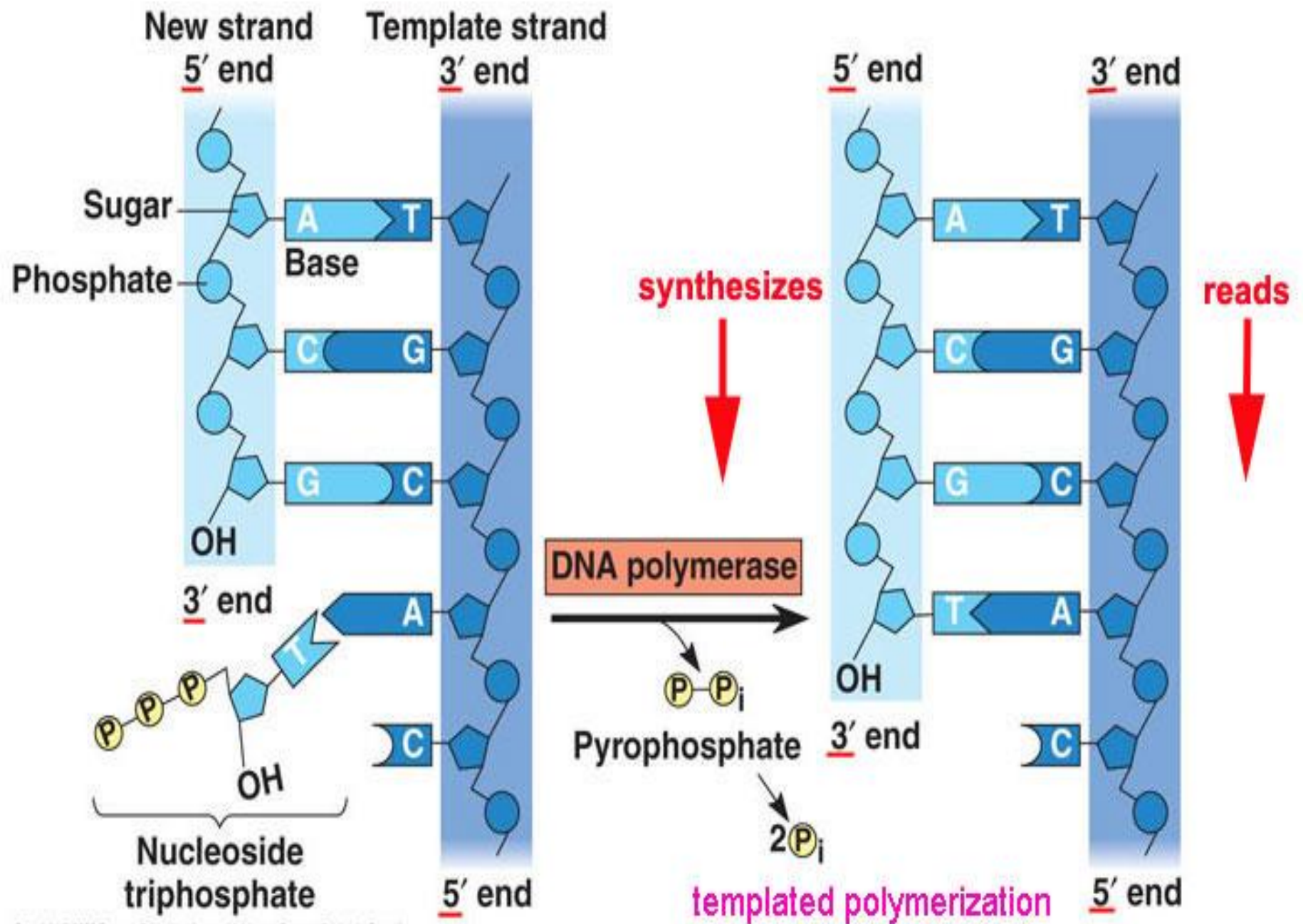


Primase



DNA Polymerase





5' ATGGCCTAATGCAATCTGATGGCCTTAAGCGT 3'

Primer sequences (10 bases): **5' ACGCUUAAGG 3'**

Enzyme that makes the primer: **Primase**

On which base, at the 3'OH, DNA Polymerase will add its first base? **G**

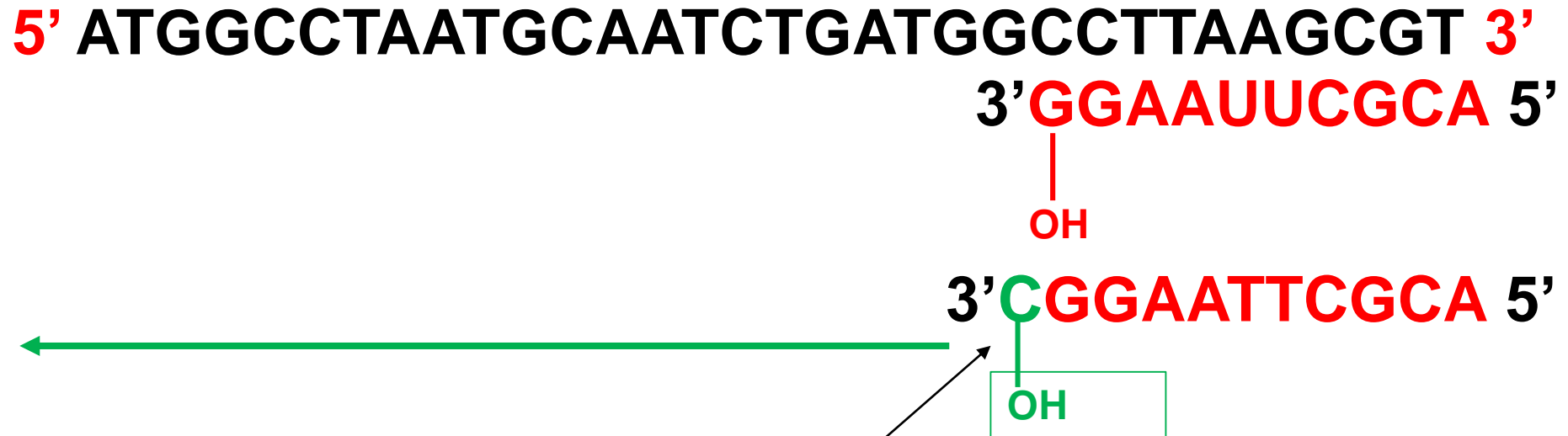
The First base that will be added by the DNA Pol III: **C**

Sequence that the DNA polymerase III will incorporate:

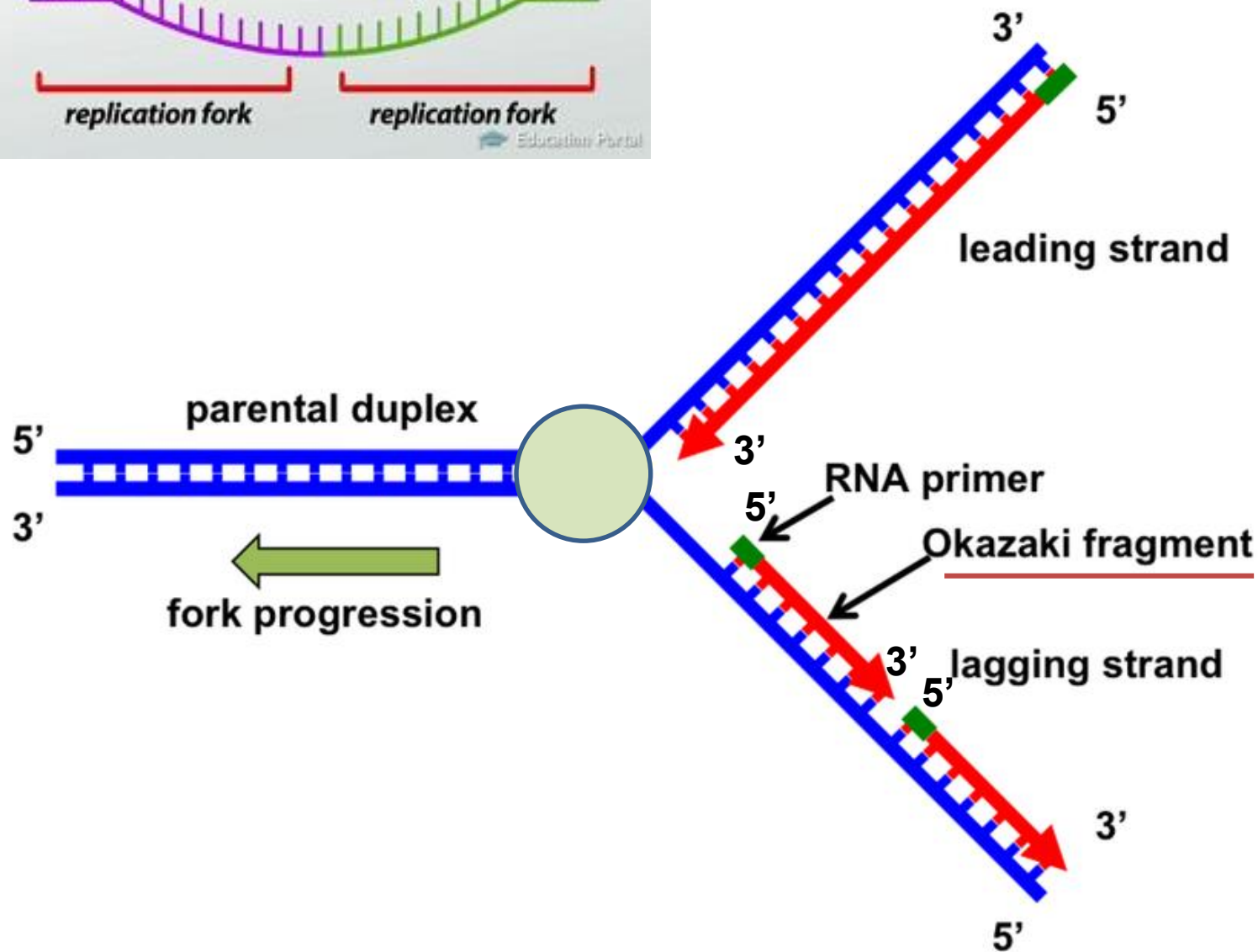
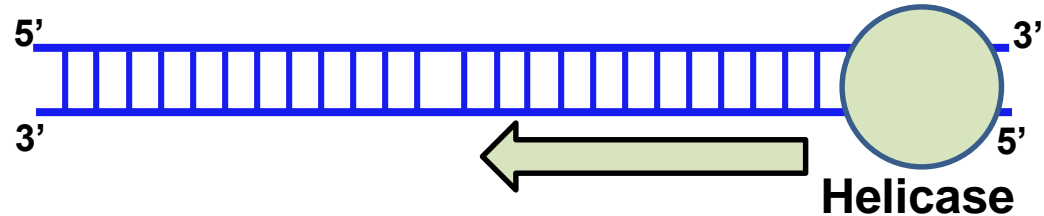
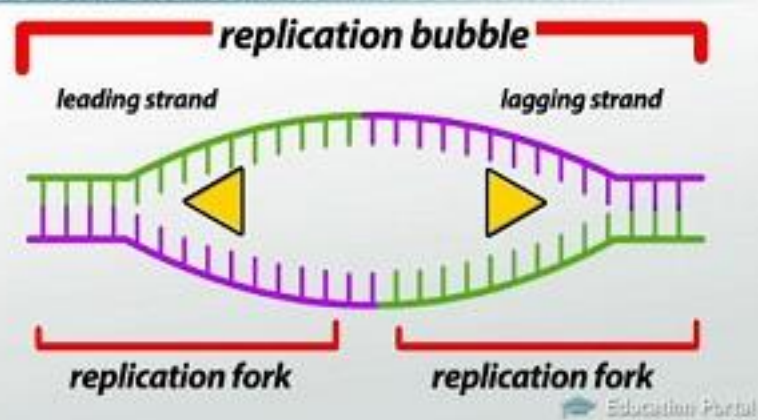
5' CCATCAGATTGCATTAGGCCAT 3'

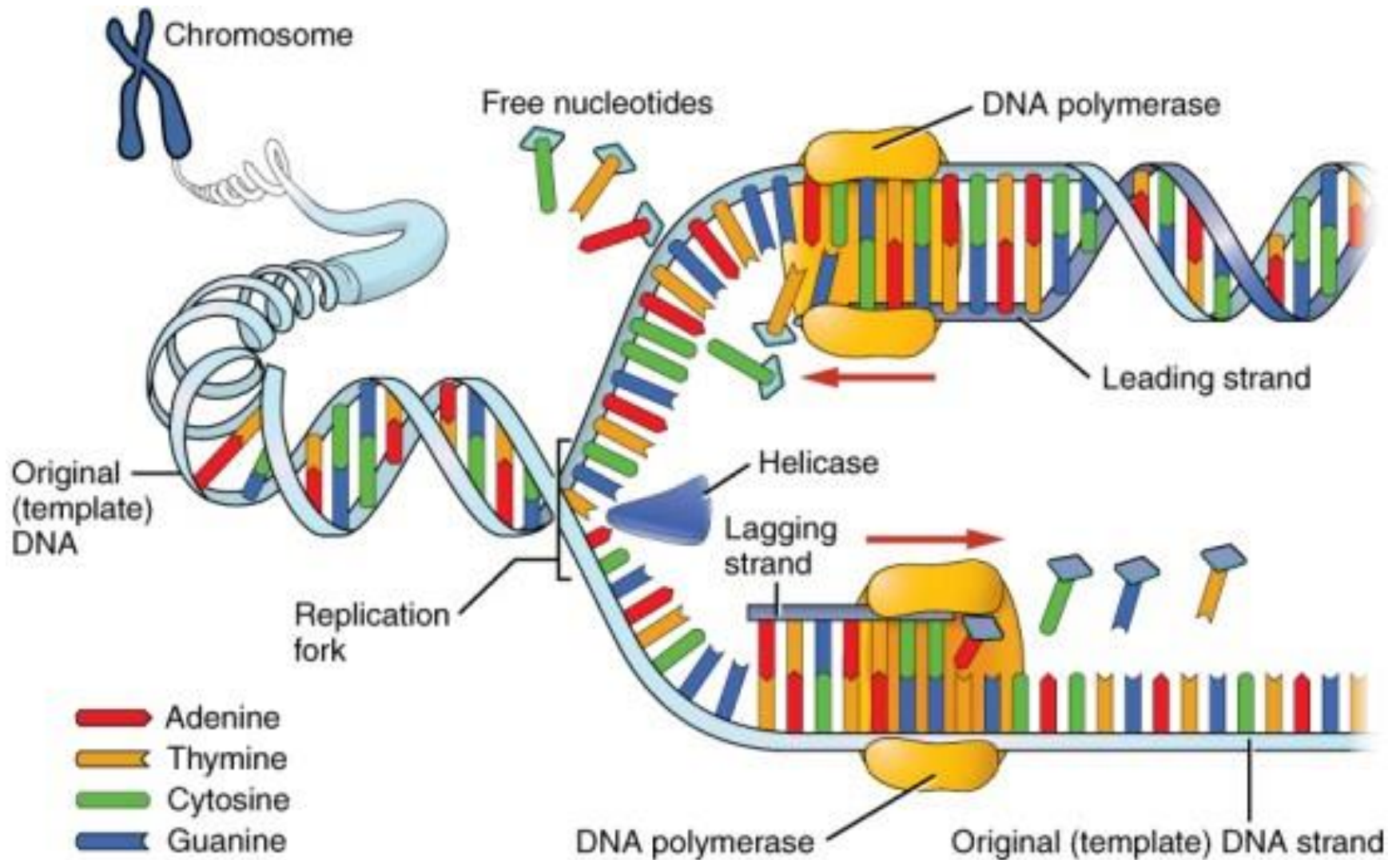
5' ATGGCCTAATGCAATCTGATGGCCTTAAGCGT 3'

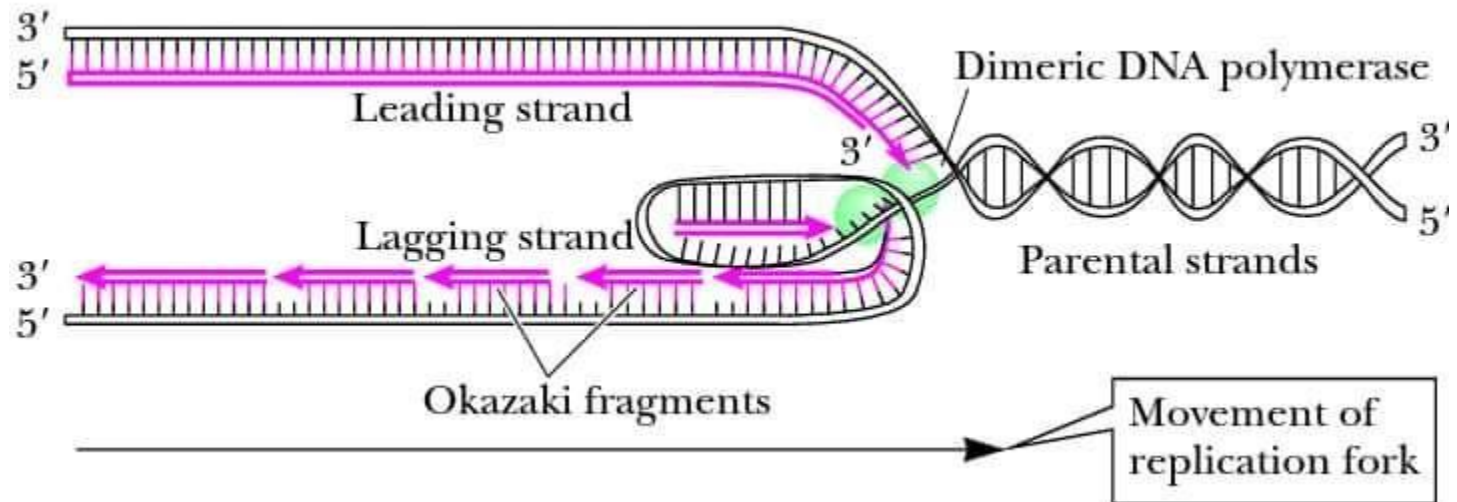
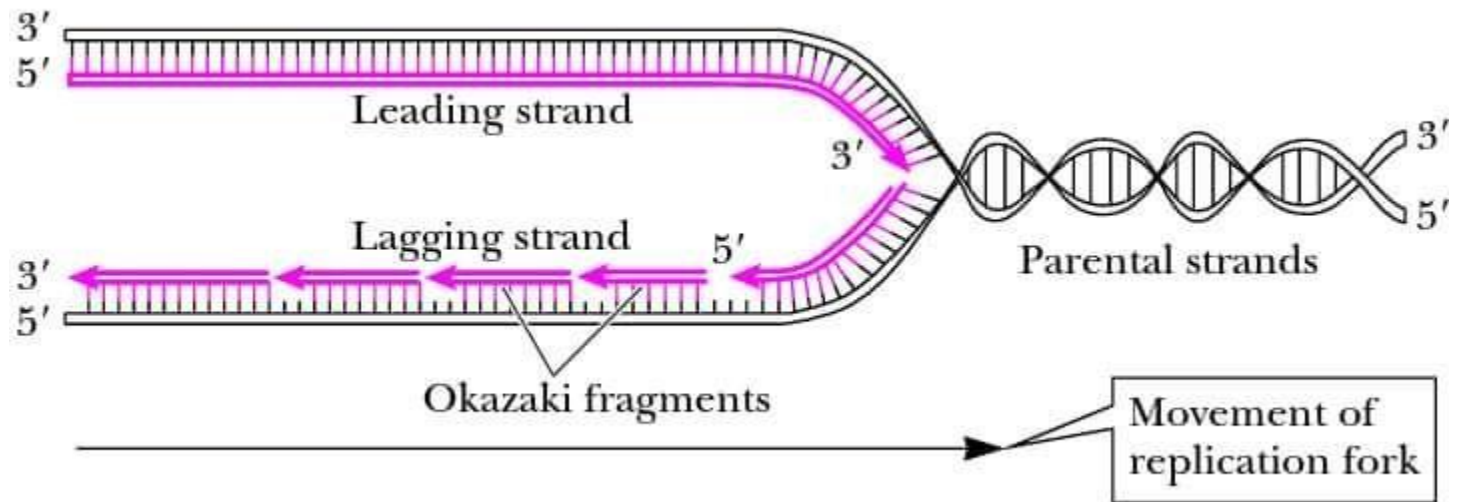
Primer sequences (10 bases): **5' ACGCUUAAGG 3'**

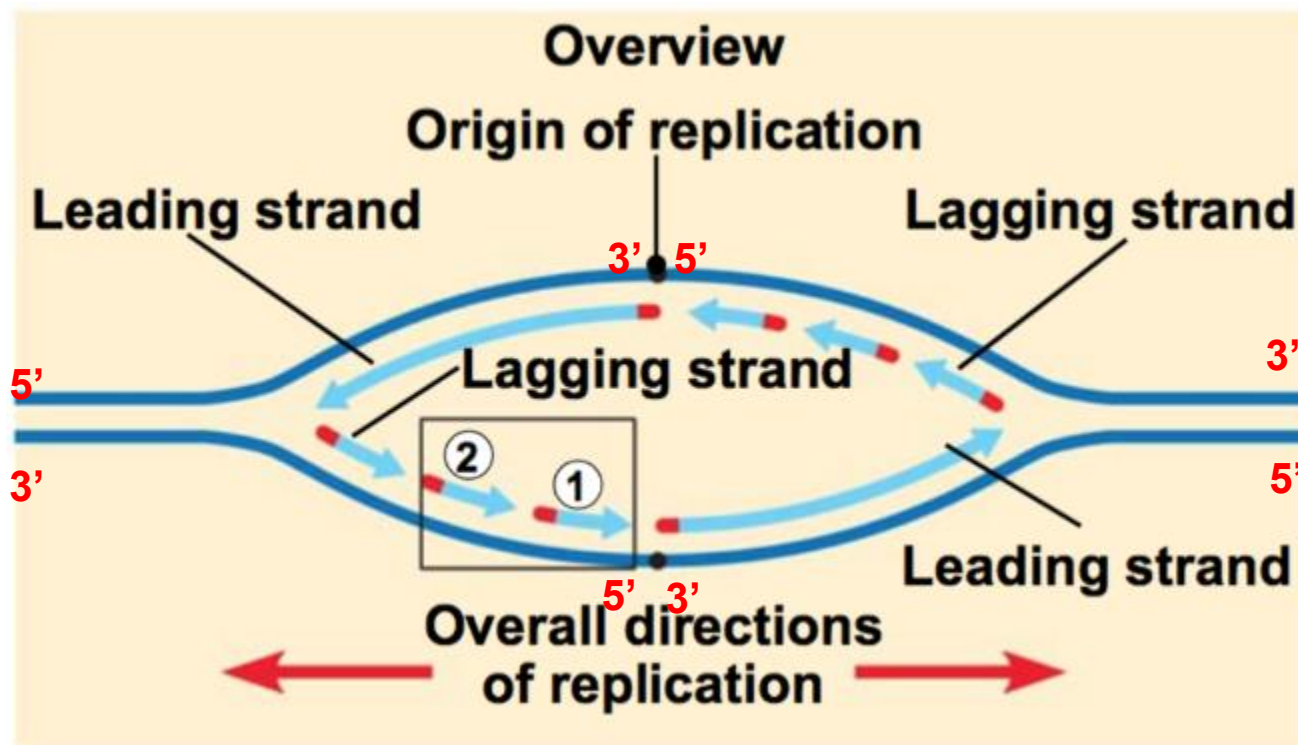
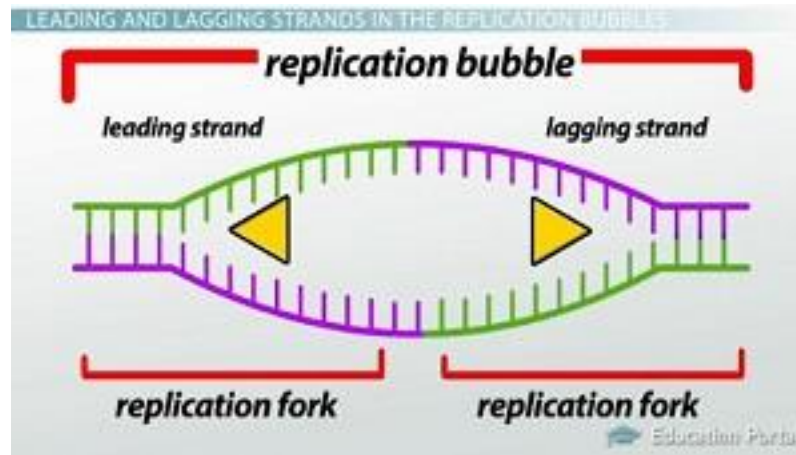


DNA Polymerase III starts adding bases

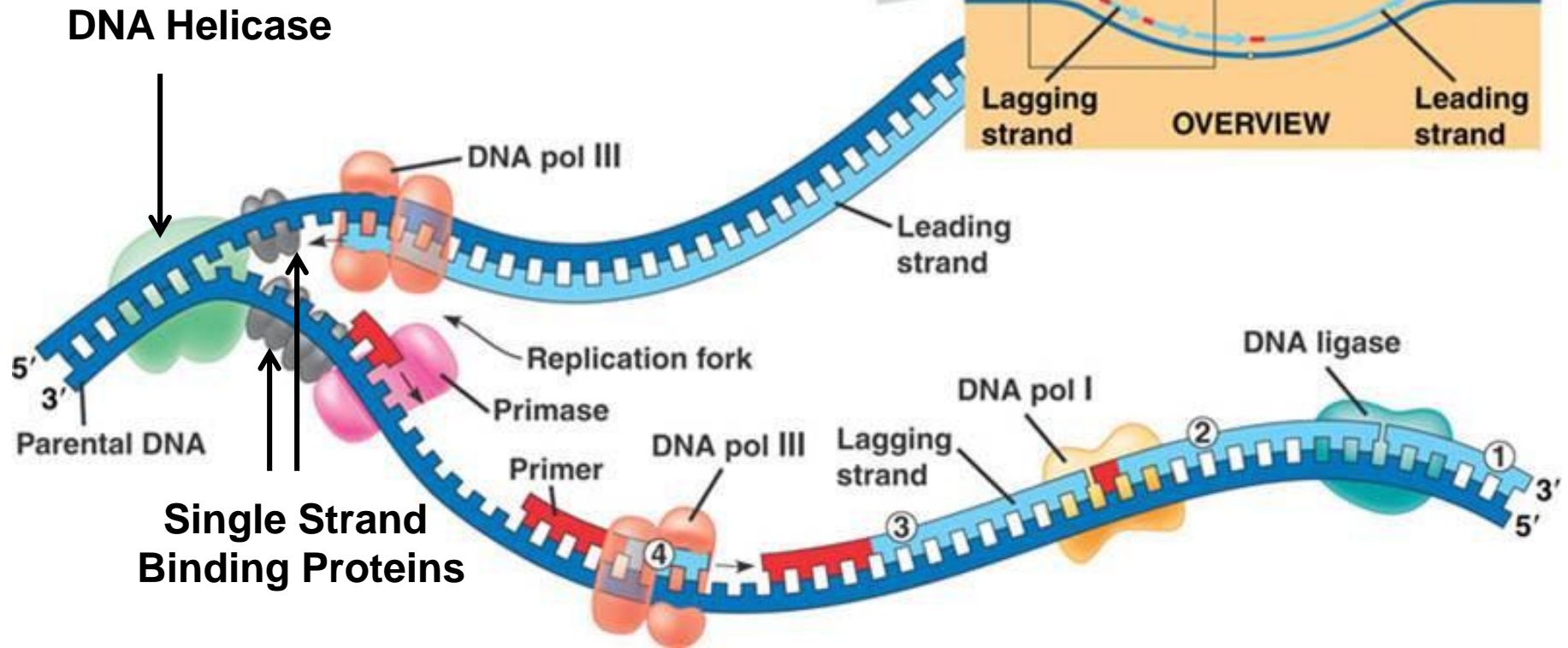
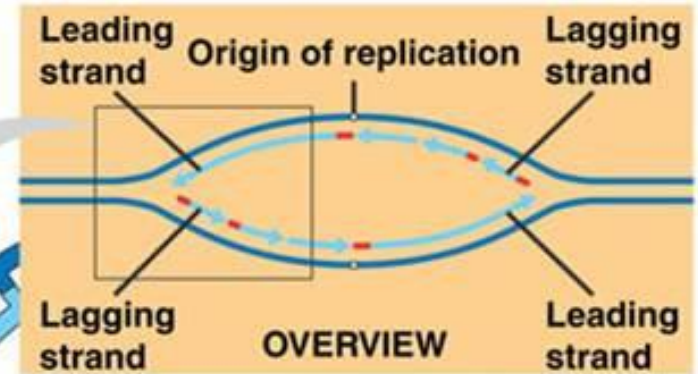




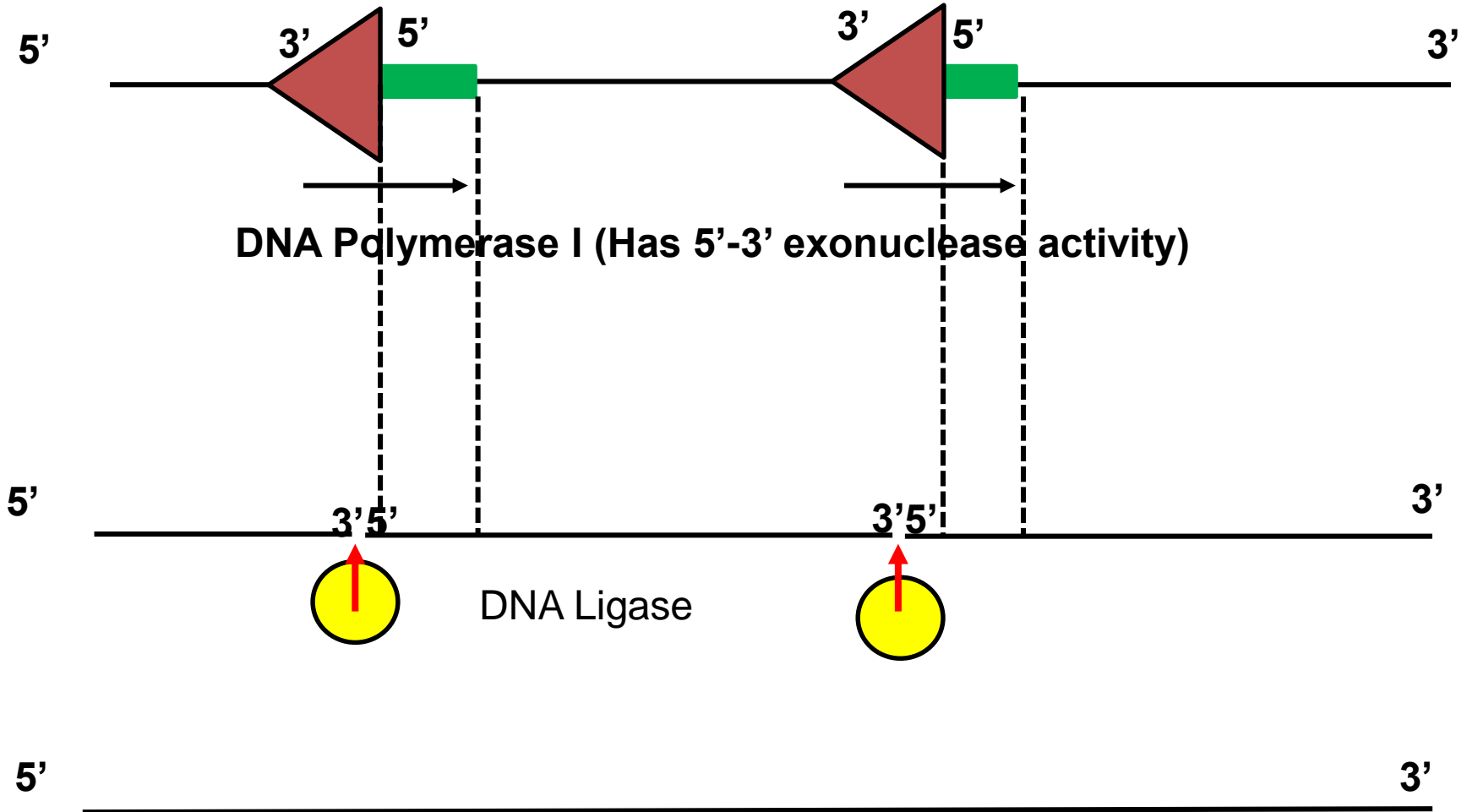




← Overall direction of replication →

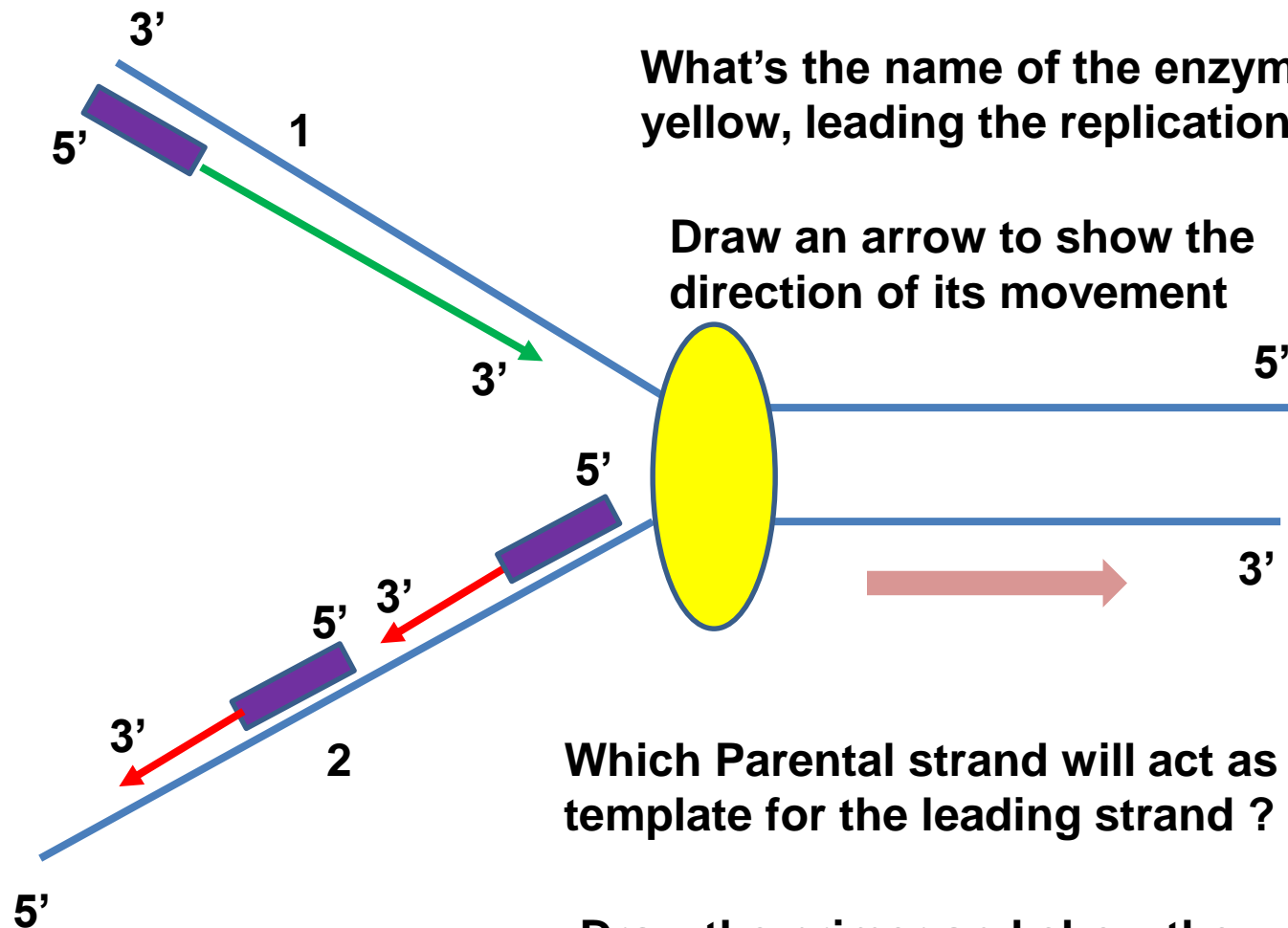


OKAZAKI Fragments



DNA replication is accomplished by DNA polymerase and other enzymes:

- A. Enz. helicase unwinds and breaks H-bonds
- B. single-stranded binding proteins stabilize the molecule
- C. Enz. primase adds a small piece of RNA (called a primer) to origin of replication (DNA nucleotides can only be added to the 3' end of an existing chain)
 - 1. leading strand - one primer needed
 - 2. lagging strand - Okazaki fragments - primer needed for each fragment
- D. Enz. DNA polymerase III builds new DNA strands that will pair with each old DNA strand. It adds new dNTPs to the 3' end of the primer by A-T, G-C manner (**from the 5' to 3' direction only**).
- E. DNA polymerase I replaces RNA primers w/ DNA
- F. Enz. DNA ligase joins Okasaki fragments together





C

5' to 3' exonuclease activity

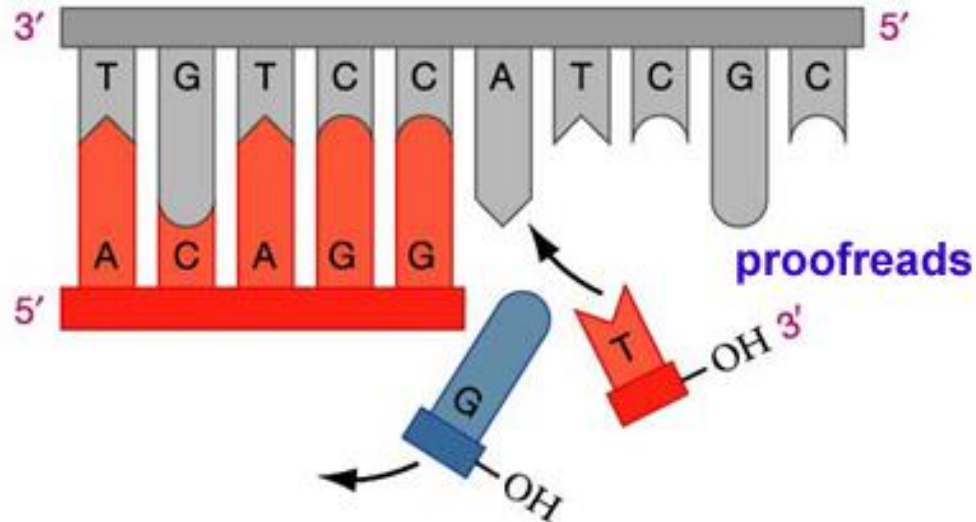
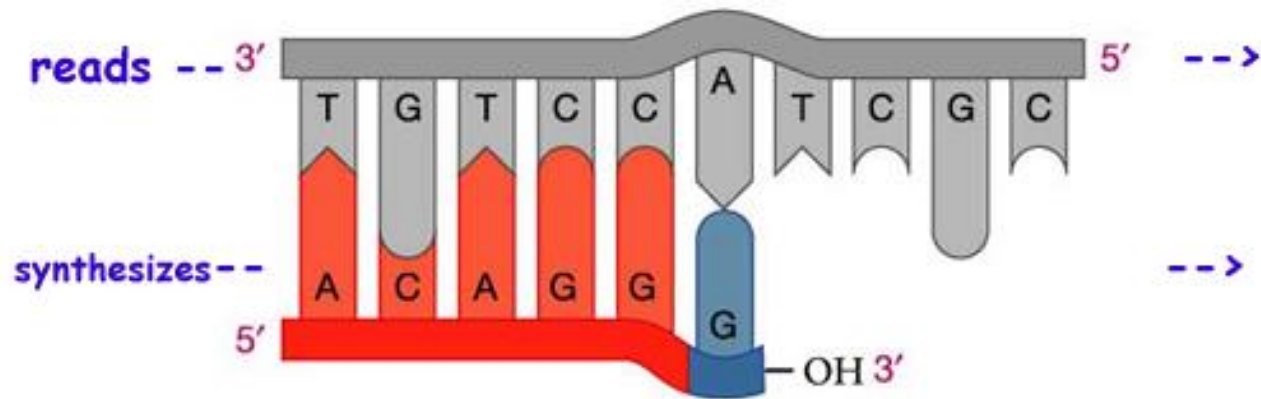
What's the role of DNA ligase here ?

DNA Proof Reading

- It takes *E. coli* <1 hour to copy 5 million base pairs in its single chromosome
 - divide to form 2 identical daughter cells
- Human cell copies its 6 billion bases & divide into daughter cells in only few hours
 - remarkably accurate
 - **only ~1 error per 100 million bases**
 - ~30 errors per cell cycle

DNA Proof Reading

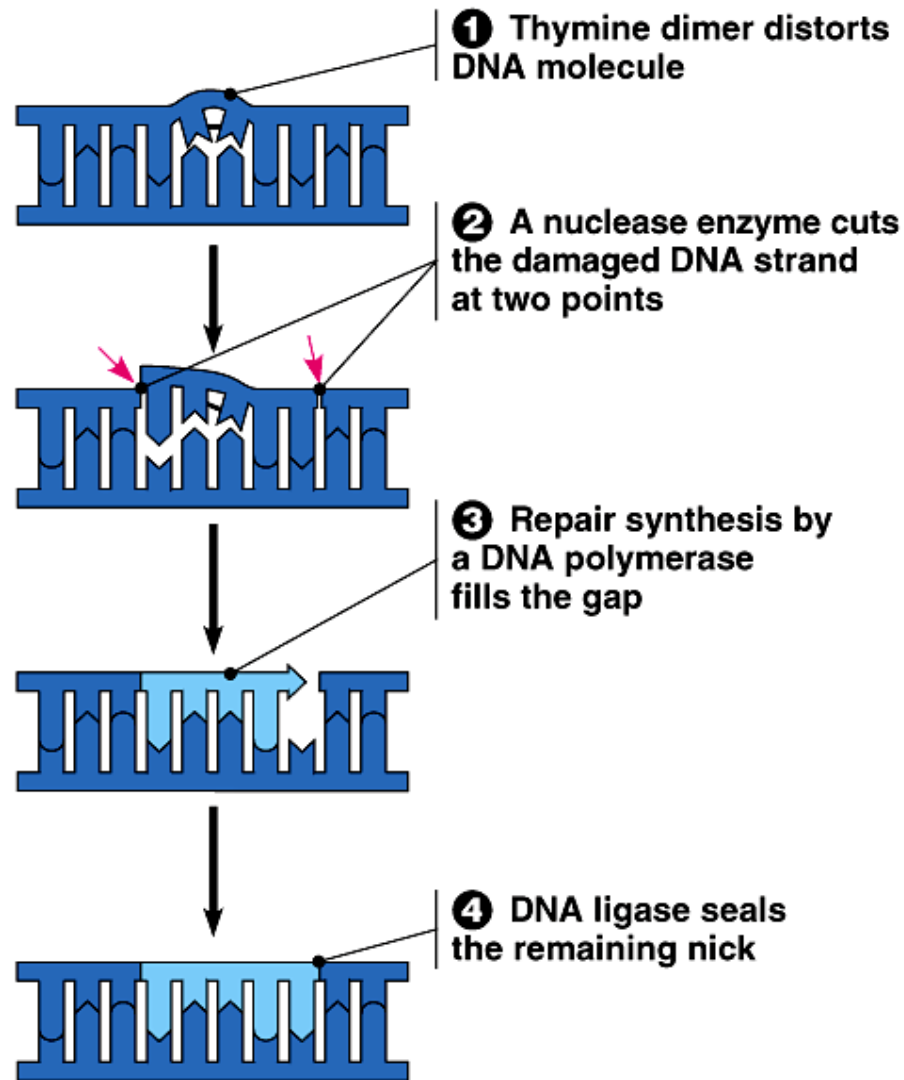
All DNA polymerases have 3'-5' exonuclease activity
(**proofreading ability**)



DNA Repair Systems

- One major concern for an organism's survival **is genomic stability**
- **Errors in DNA can occur during synthesis or post replication** from environmental factors (i.e. UV radiation)
- Injury to DNA is minimized by systems that recognize and correct the damage. **The repair systems are as complex as the replication apparatus itself**, which indicates their importance for the survival of the cell.
- **Errors in DNA may lead to mutations**, which can cause a variety of problems including cancer
- Organisms have multiple repair systems
 - **Base Excision**
 - **Nucleotide Excision**
 - **Mismatch Excision Repair (MMR)**

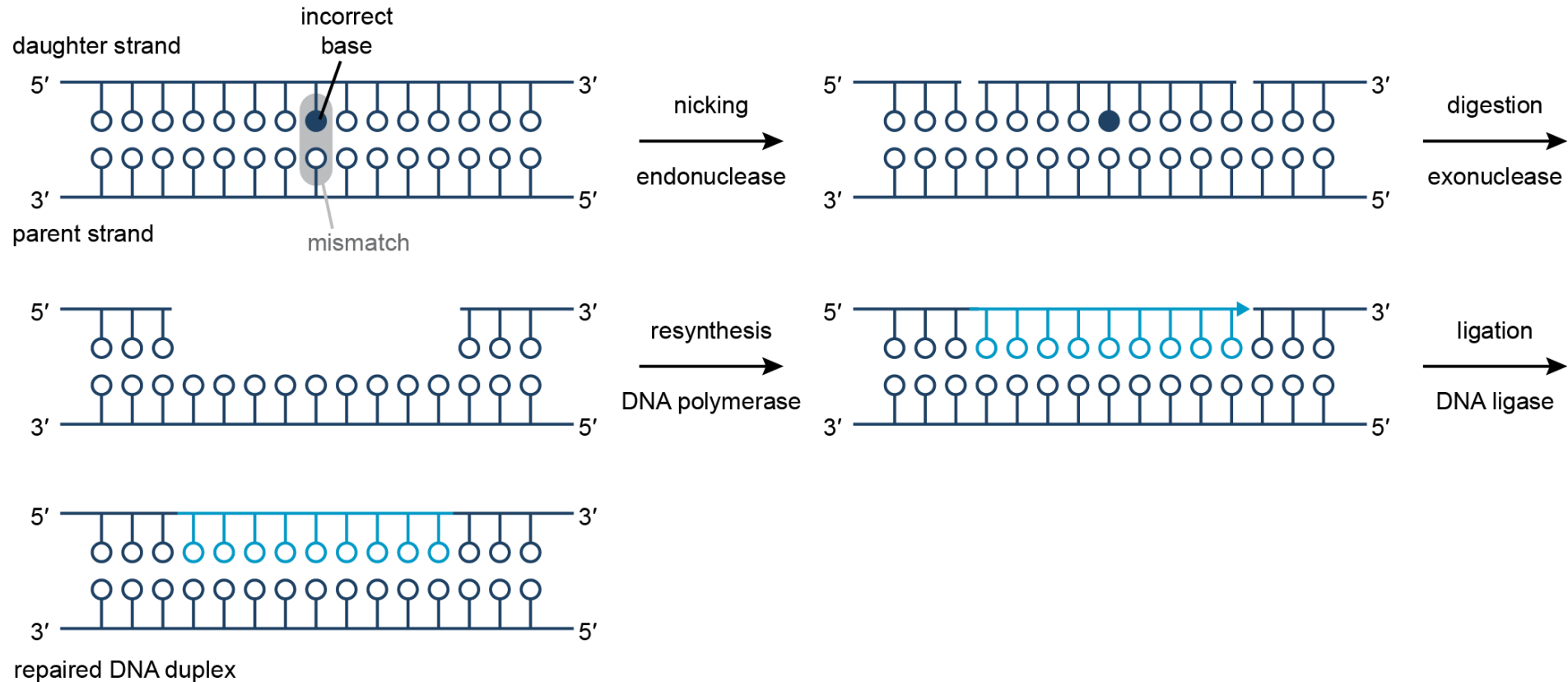
Excision-repair removes and replaces a stretch of DNA that includes the damaged base(s).



Mismatch Repair (MMR)

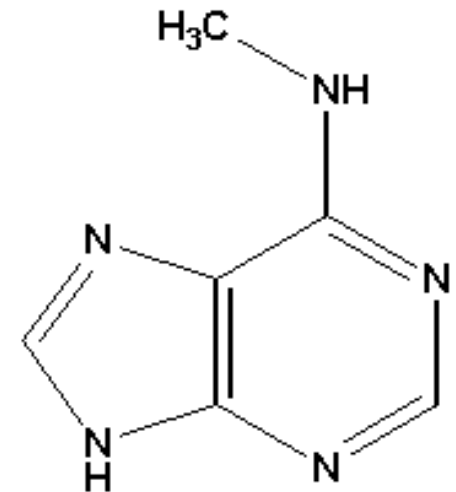
- MMR is responsible for **locating and removing mismatched base pairs**
- Highly **conserved throughout evolution**
- Increases genomic stability 100 to 1,000 fold
- Lack of MMR has been linked to several forms of cancer

Mismatch Repair (MMR)



Recognition of Daughter Strand

- Recognition of newly synthesized and damaged **daughter stands is critical** in repair
- In **prokaryotes** MMR machinery recognizes the difference between the two strands by **methylation status**
- A parental **strand is methylated at A or C**, thus the **unmethylated strand is the daughter strand**

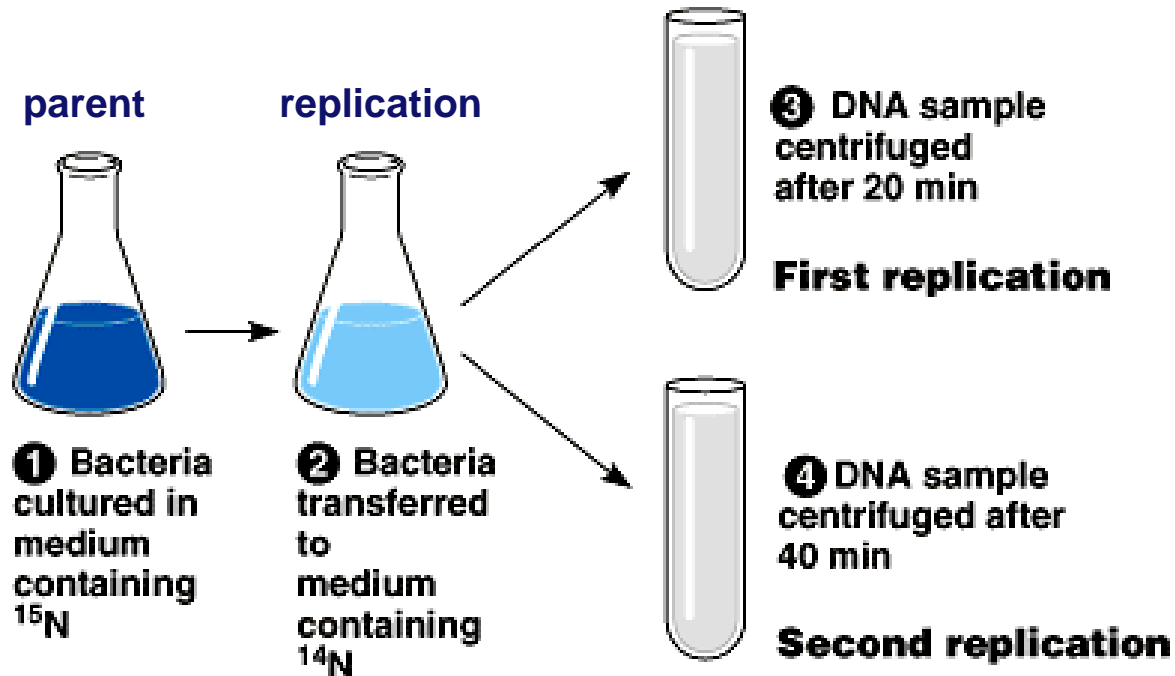


methyladenine

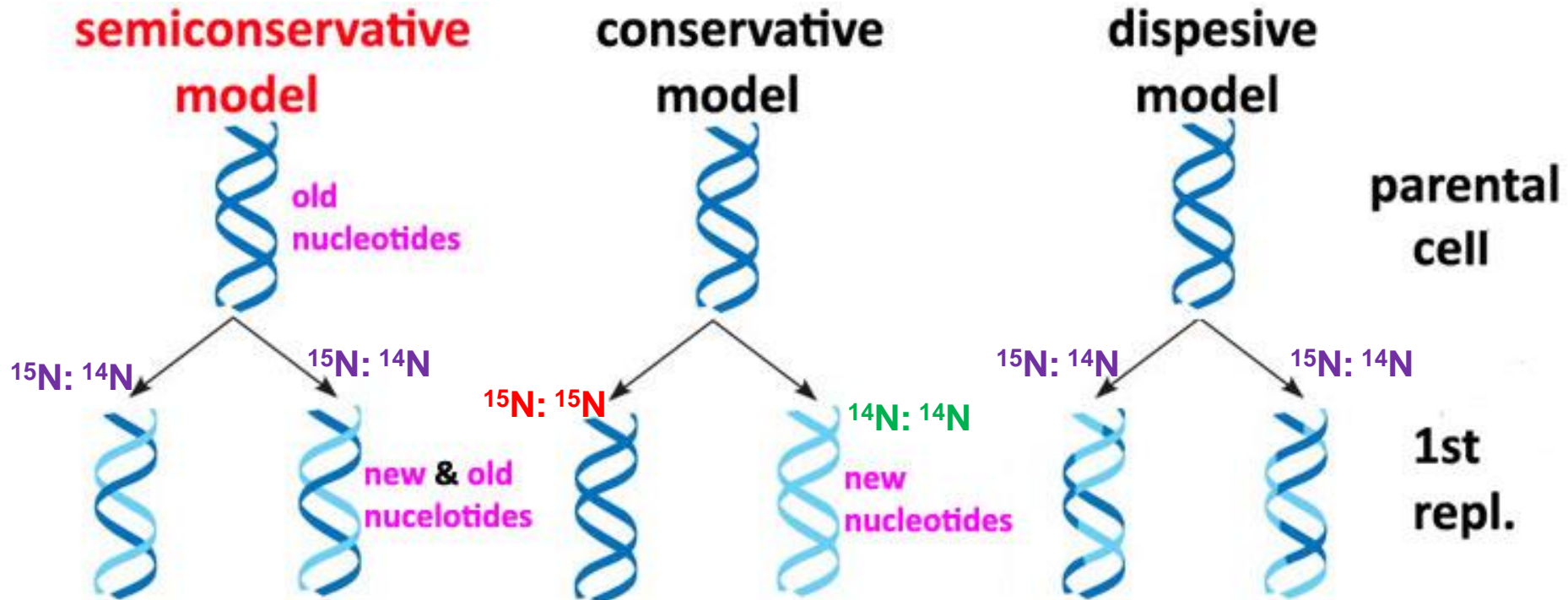
EXTRA SLIDES FOR ADDITIONAL READINGS
(Not part of evaluative components)

Semi-conservative replication

- Meselson & Stahl
 - label nucleotides of “parent” DNA strands with heavy nitrogen = ^{15}N
 - label new nucleotides with lighter isotope = ^{14}N

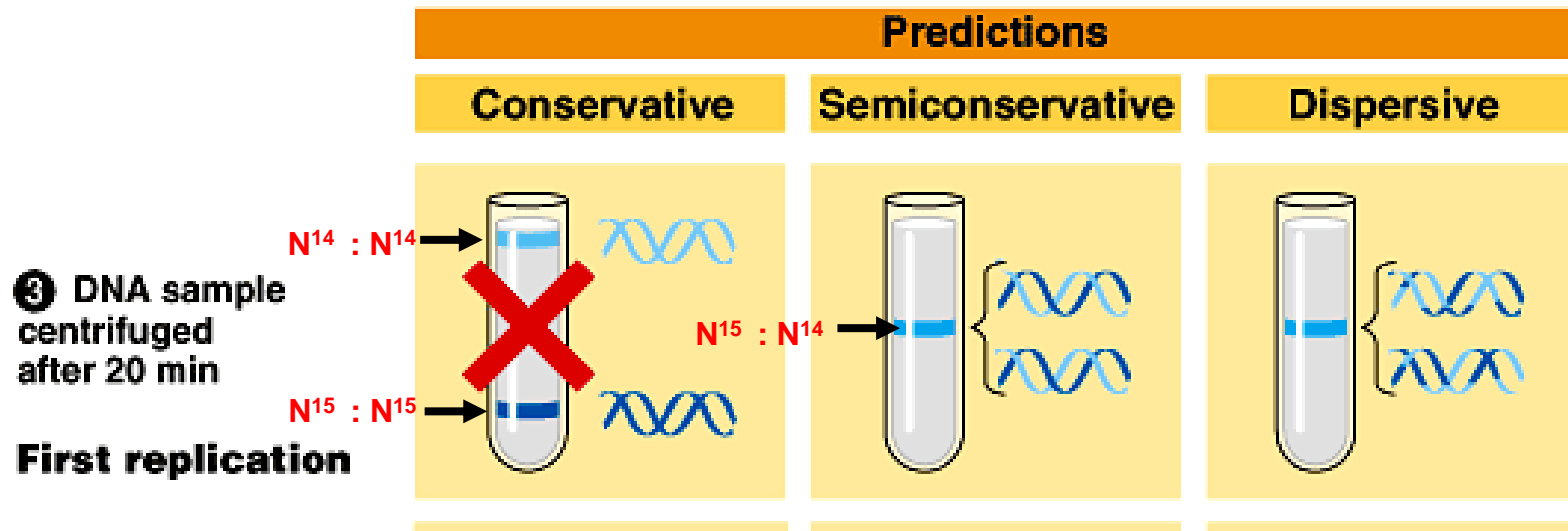


DNA Replication

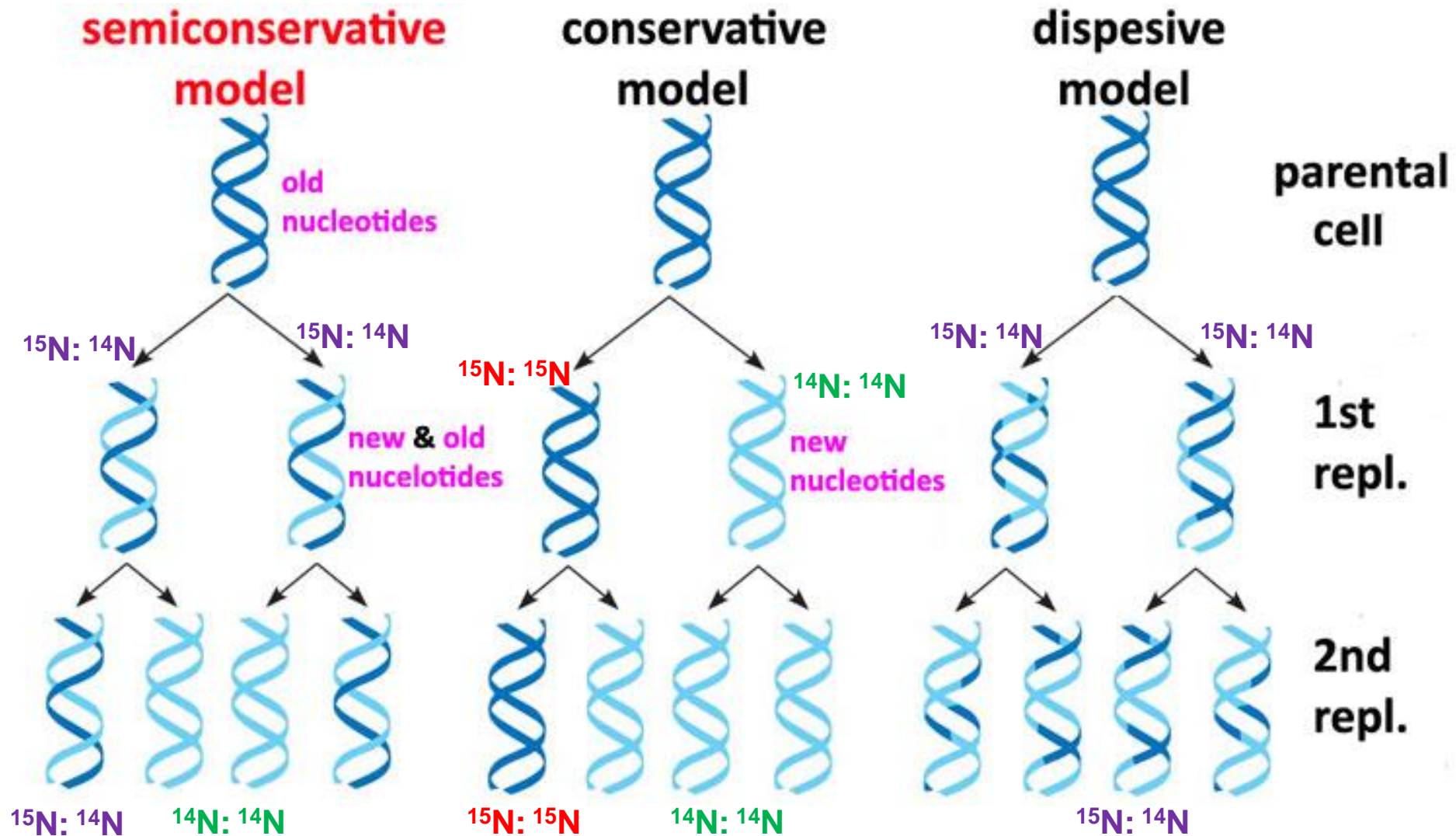


Semi-conservative replication

- Make predictions...
 - ^{15}N strands replicated in ^{14}N medium
 - 1st round of replication



DNA Replication



Semi-conservative replication

- Make predictions...
 - ^{15}N strands replicated in ^{14}N medium
 - 1st round of replication
 - 2nd round

