

2.6 Nucleic Acids

- Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA): a polynucleotide that carries genetic information; the cellular instructions for making protein.
- Ribonucleic acid: a polynucleotide involved as an intermediary in protein synthesis. The material (mRNA) that brings the message from the DNA to the ribosome for the formation of protein.
- Nucleotide: a monomer of DNA, consisting of a ribose sugar, a phosphate group, and one of four possible nitrogenous bases (adenine, thymine, guanine, cytosine).
- The phosphate-sugar complex creates a backbone in the shape of a double helix. The nitrogenous bases line up and join the two strands.
- Nitrogenous bases always link up A-T and G-C.
- See page 129 for structures of the bases and the double helix.
- DNA carries the information to create the organism.

Homework

Practice 1,2,3,6

Questions 1,2,3,4,5