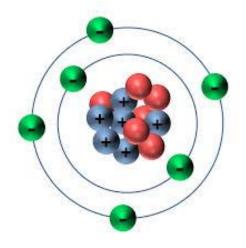
# 6.4 The Building Blocks of Life

Objectives: 1. Describe the role of carbon in living organisms. 2. Summarize the four major family biological macromolecules. 3. Compare the functions of each group of biological macromolecules.

# **Organic Chemistry**

- All living things on earth are Carbon based
  - ► Has 4 valence electrons;
  - ► Forms \_\_\_\_\_ bonds
  - Can bond in a variety of ways
    - ► Rings, chains, branched molecules
    - ► Single, double or triple bonds

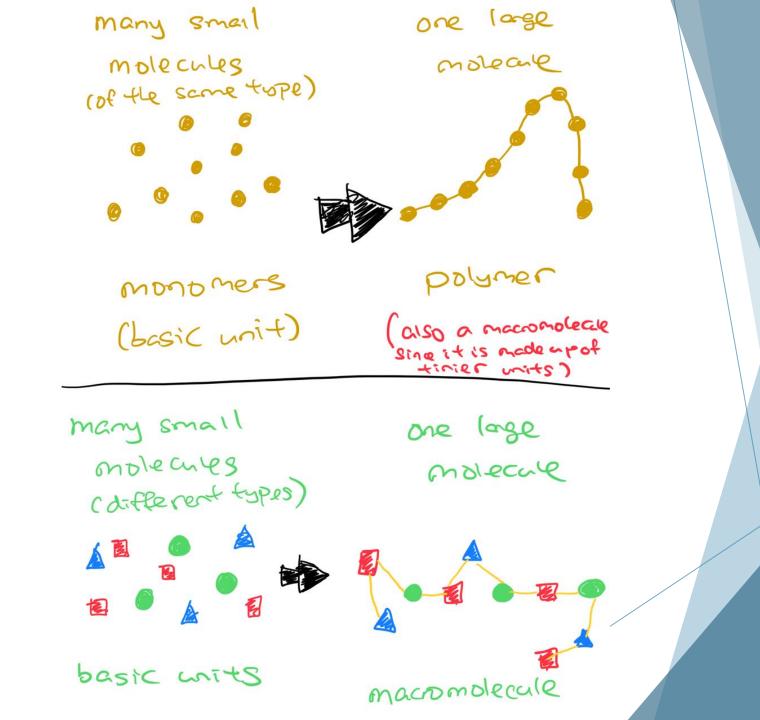


Butadiene Acetylene

Benzene

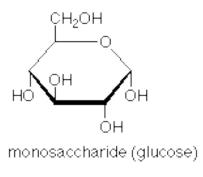
## Biological Molecules

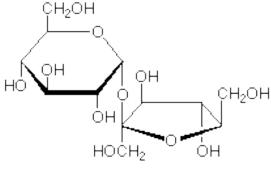
- ► 4 classes
  - Carbohydrates
  - Proteins
  - ► Nucleic acids
  - ▶ Lipids
- ► All four of them are macromolecules (molecules made from combining smaller units together); but only the <u>first three</u> are polymers.
  - ► Smaller unit are called "monomers", larger molecule of them bonded together is called a "polymer"
  - ► Lipids are not polymers, but they are macromolecules



#### Carbohydrates

- Made of C, H, and O, always in a ratio of 1C:2H:10
- Includes monosaccharides, disaccharides and polysaccharides
  - Monomer (building block) is a monosaccharide...a single sugar unit
  - Able to bond together at specific locations on the molecule (-OH, hydroxyl groups)
  - Monosaccharides
    - Sugars like glucose
  - Disaccharides
    - Sugars like sucrose
  - Polysaccharides
    - Molecules likes starch, cellulose, glycogen

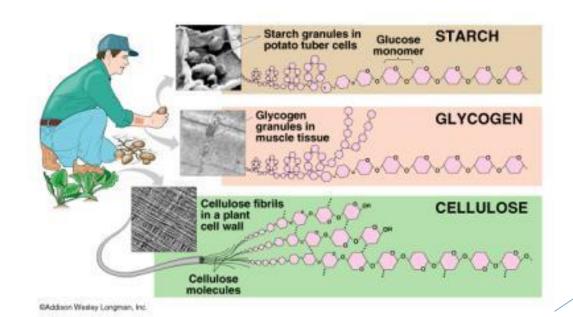




disaccharide (sucrose)

#### What do Carbohydrates do in Living Things?

- major immediate energy source (glucose)
- Polysaccharides have a couple of different functions
  - ► Store energy (glycogen found in liver/muscle cells)
  - Store energy (starch found in plants)
  - Structural support (cellulose found in plants)
    - ► These molecules vary in their shape and organization of the individual monosaccharides that make them up

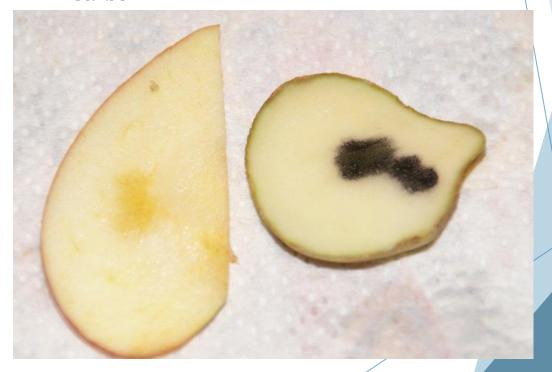


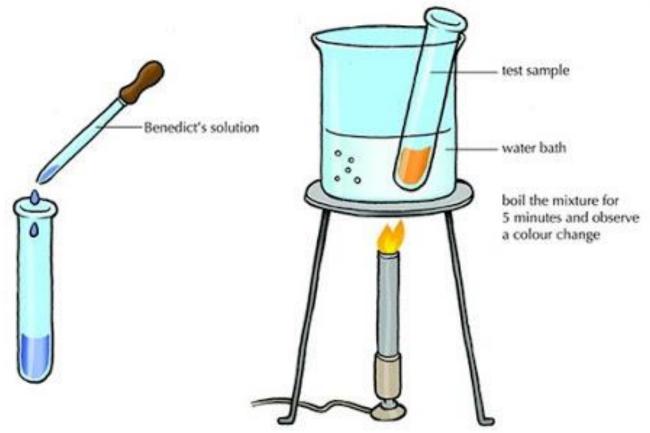
# How can we test to see if an object has Carbohydrates?

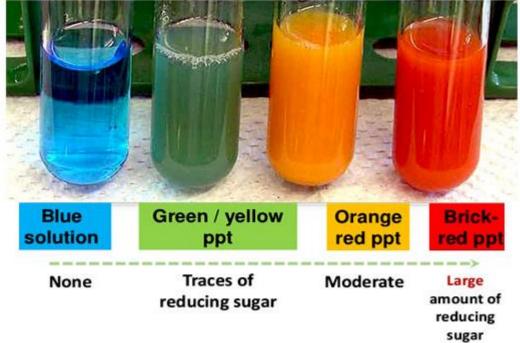
Benedict's test for simple sugars



lodine test for starch/complex carbs





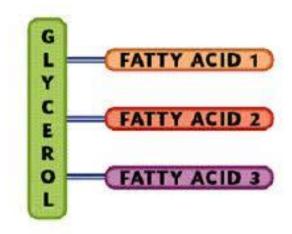


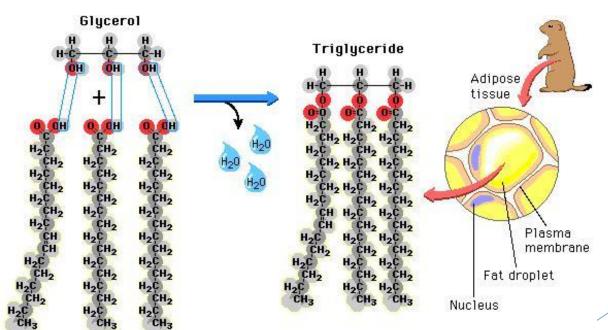
#### Lipids

- Made almost entirely of C and H
- ► Fats, oils, waxes
  - ► Main job is to store energy (long term use)

3 fatty acids

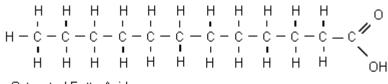
- ► Also structural role in living cells
- Made primarily of fatty acids and glycerol



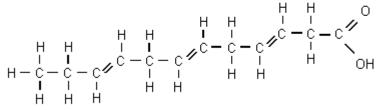


## Lipids

- May be fats
  - Saturated
    - All of the carbon's bonds are filled with H
    - ► Tend to exist in solid form
  - Unsaturated
    - ▶ Some of the carbon's have double bonds, leading to kinks in the shape of the fat
    - ► Exist in liquid form



Saturated Fatty Acid



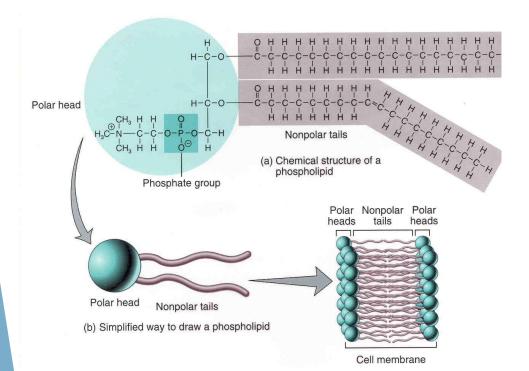
Unsaturated Fatty Acid



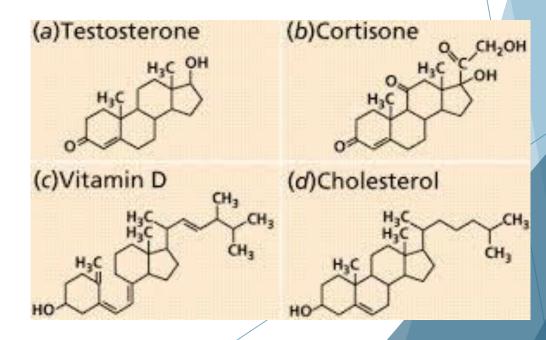


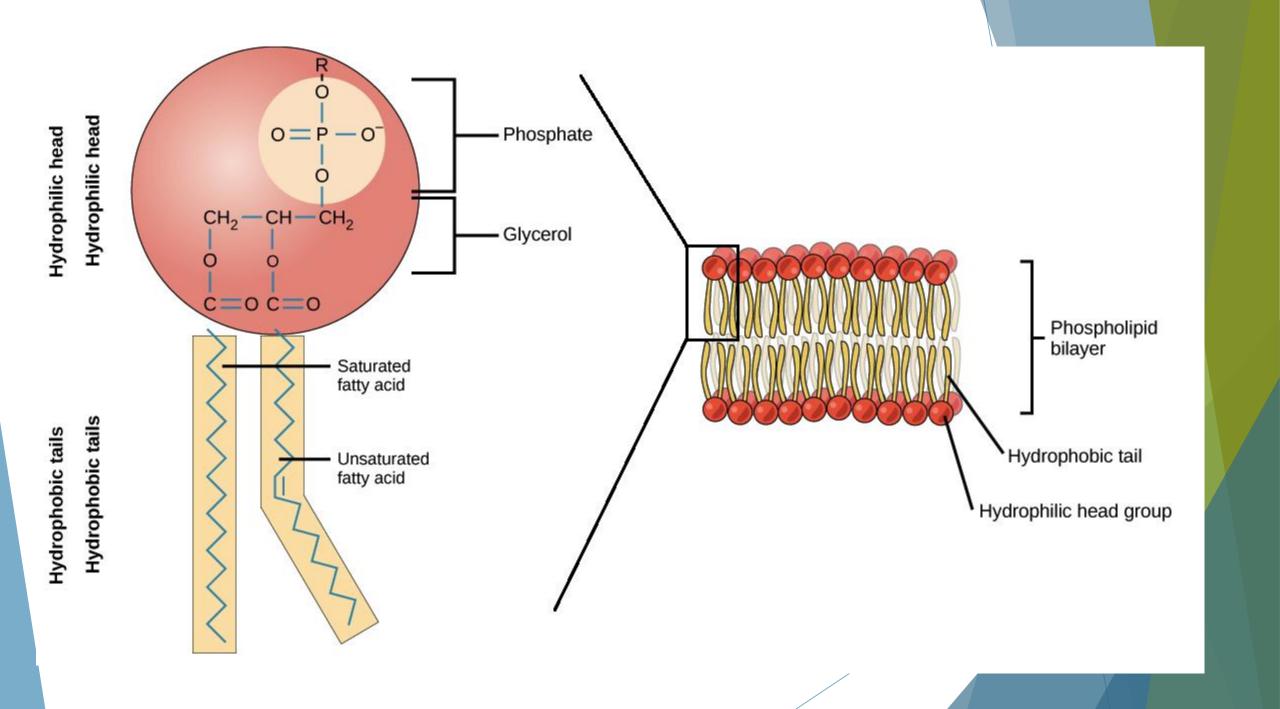
#### Lipids

- Phospholipids
  - Crucial to the structure of cell membranes
  - ► Glycerol backbone, 2 fatty acid chains and a phosphate head
  - Polar and non-polar ends



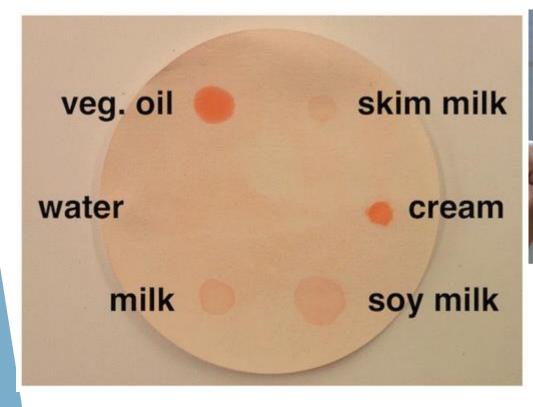
- Steroids
  - Ring structures
  - Cholesterol
  - Hormones (estrogen/testosterone)
  - vitamins

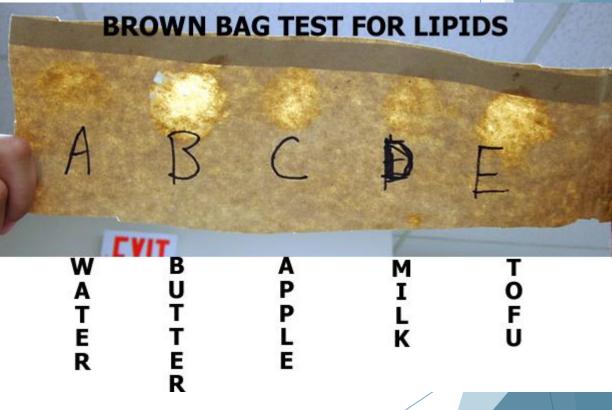




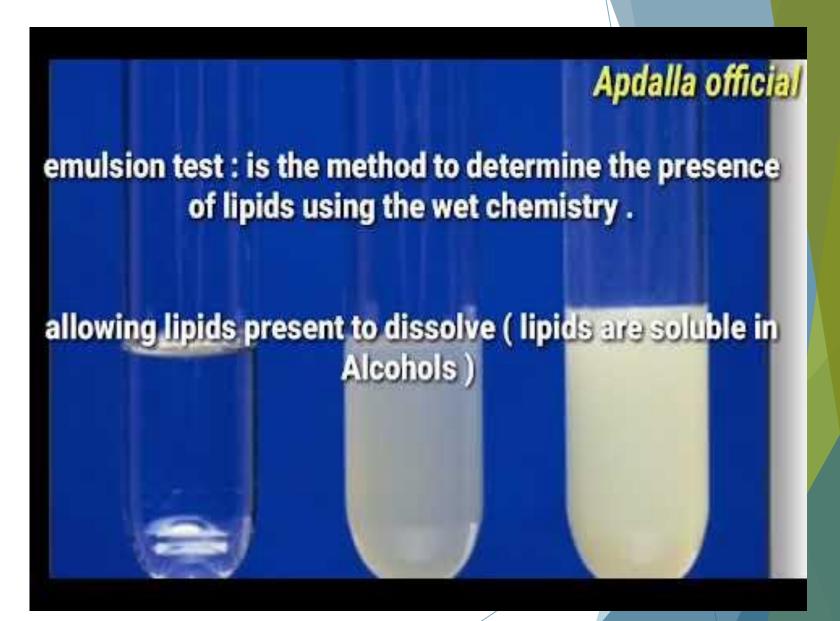
### How do we test for lipids?

Sudan III or IV test







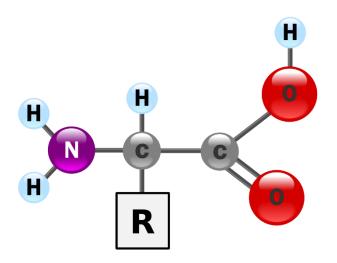


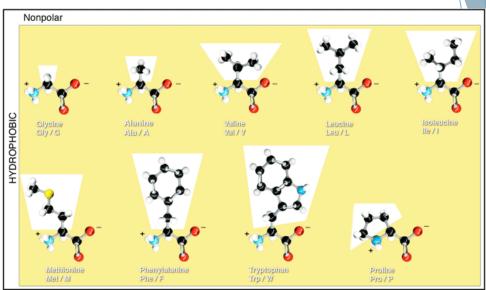
# Checkpoint

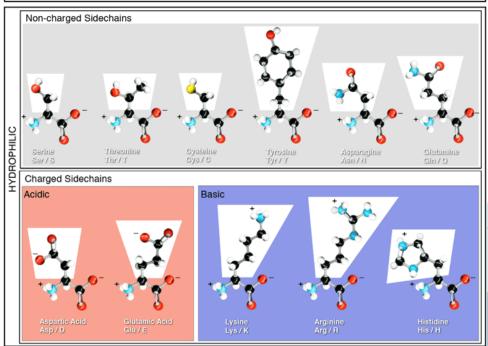
Compare and contrast the structure and function of carbohydrates and lipids.

#### **Proteins**

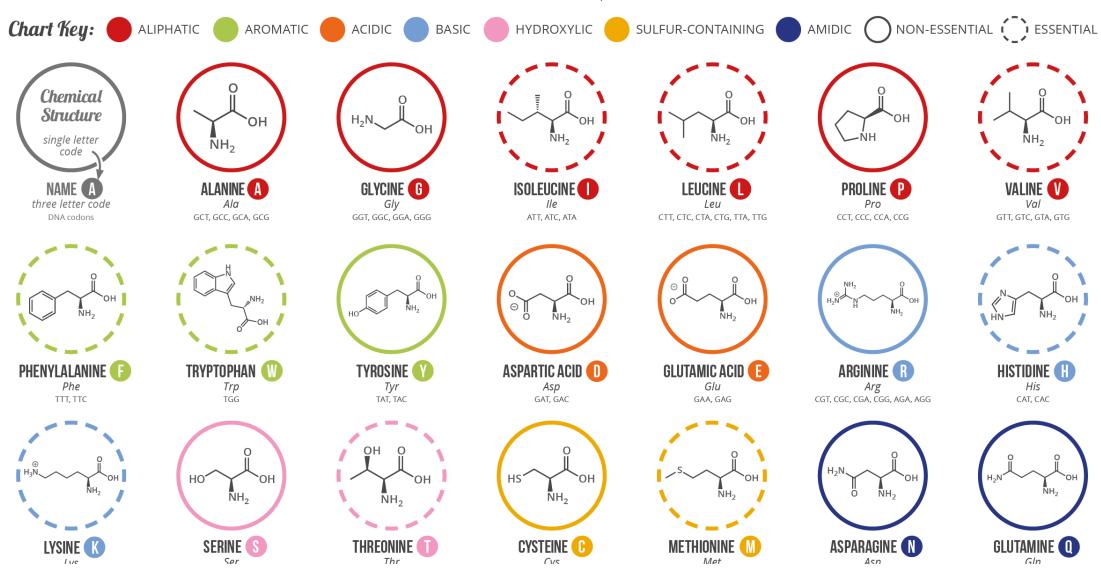
- Essential molecules; involved in almost every function of your body
  - ► Make up 15% of our total body mass
- Made of smaller units called amino acids, which are joined together to make larger protein molecules
  - ▶ 20 different amino acids; only variation is in the R group





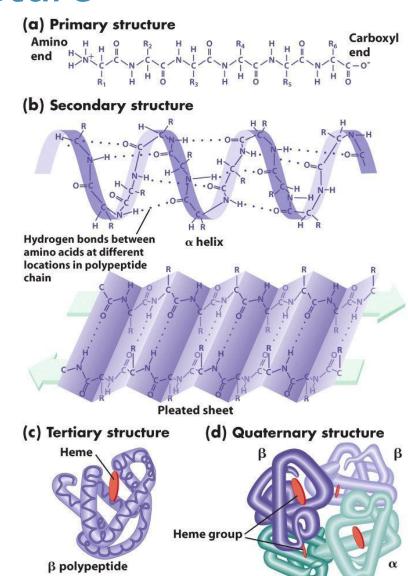


AMINO ACIDS ARE THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF PROTEINS IN LIVING ORGANISMS. THERE ARE OVER 500 AMINO ACIDS FOUND IN NATURE - HOWEVER, THE HUMAN GENETIC CODE ONLY DIRECTLY ENCODES 20. 'ESSENTIAL' AMINO ACIDS MUST BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIET, WHILST NON-ESSENTIAL AMINO ACIDS CAN BE SYNTHESISED IN THE BODY.



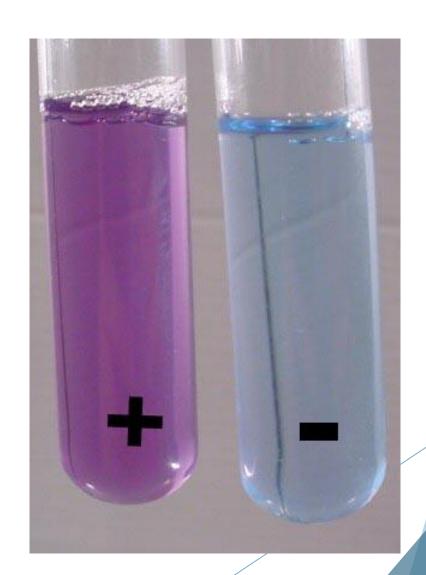
#### Levels of Protein Structure

- Primary
  - Sequence of amino acids
- Secondary
  - Alpha helices or beta pleated sheets
  - Due to hydrogen bonds
- Tertiary
  - Interactions of side chains leads to a folding of the molecule
- Quaternary
  - Sometimes multiple chains come together to create a larger protein



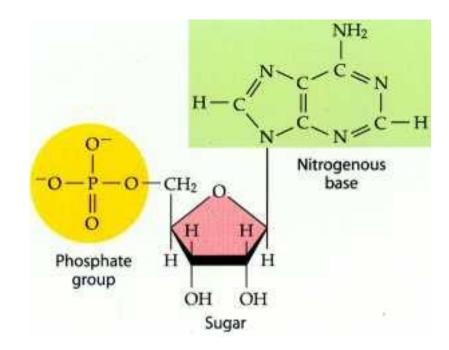
# How do we test for proteins?

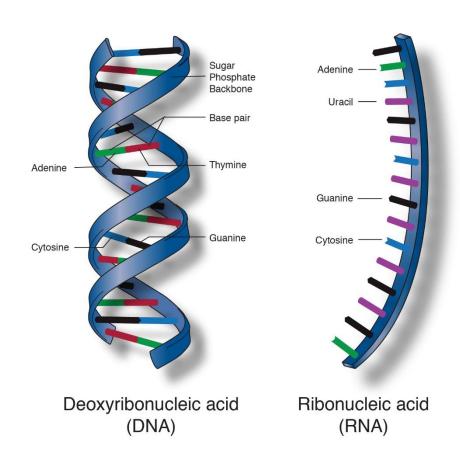
Biuret test



#### **Nucleic Acids**

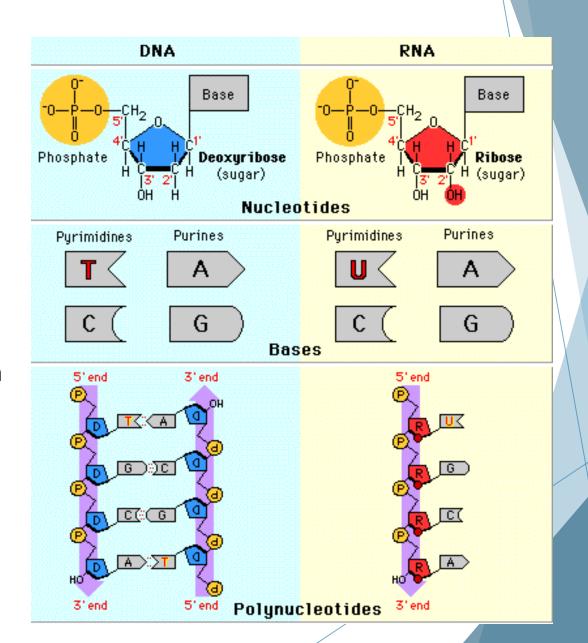
- Primary job is to store and transmit genetic information
- DNA and RNA
- Made of smaller monomers called nucleotides
  - made of sugar, phosphate and nitrogen containing base





#### Nucleic acids

- Join together in long chains
- DNA stores genetic information
- ► RNA transmits it, and enables that genetic information to be decoded
- We will be learning about these molecules in greater detail later in the course



#### FACT CHECK/PARTNER TALK

Review the structure and function of proteins and nucleic acids.

# Review (Amoeba sisters)

Biological molecule	Basic Unit	Function	Example	Common elements at building block level	Extra note
Carbohydrate					
Lipid					
Protein					
Nucleic acid					