

# DNA GLOSSARY

## WHO MADE THIS?

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# DNA GLOSSARY



WORD	DEFINITION
ALLELE	A different form of a gene that can influence a specific trait.
BASE PAIR	Two nitrogen bases in DNA that bond together, forming part of the DNA ladder.
CHROMOSOME	A structure made of DNA and proteins that carries genetic information.
CODON	A group of three nucleotides that codes for a specific amino acid.
DNA	The molecule that contains the genetic instructions for living organisms.
DOUBLE HELIX	The twisted ladder shape of the DNA molecule.
EXPRESSION	The process by which information from a gene is used to produce a protein or trait.
GENES	Segments of DNA that carry instructions for specific traits.
GENOME	The complete set of genetic material in an organism.
GENOTYPE	The genetic makeup of an organism.
HELICASE	An enzyme that unwinds the DNA double helix during replication.
HEREDITY	The passing of genetic traits from parents to offspring.
MEIOSIS	A type of cell division that produces reproductive cells with half the usual number of chromosomes.
MITOSIS	A type of cell division that produces two identical daughter cells.
MUTATION	A change in the DNA sequence.
NUCLEOTIDE	The basic building block of DNA and RNA.
NUCLEUS	The part of the cell that contains the DNA.
PHENOTYPE	The observable traits or characteristics of an organism.
POLYMERASE	An enzyme that helps build new DNA strands during replication.
PROTEIN	A molecule made of amino acids that performs many functions in living cells.
RECOMBINANT	DNA formed by combining genetic material from different sources.
REPLICATION	The process by which DNA makes a copy of itself.
RNA	A molecule involved in carrying genetic instructions from DNA to make proteins.
SEQUENCE	The order of nucleotides in a DNA molecule.
TELOMERE	The protective end section of a chromosome.
TRANSCRIPTION	The process of copying genetic information from DNA into RNA.
TRANSLATION	The process by which RNA instructions are used to build proteins.
VARIATION	Differences in traits among individuals of the same species.