



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

### **OBSERVATIONS**

1. Describe the appearance of the liquids in the two tubes.

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2. Can you tell which of the tubes contains DNA? How?

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3. Describe what happened when you first twirled the stick in or near the DNA-alcohol interface.

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4. When you lifted the stick out of the tube and a fiber of DNA followed, did you think that this was a single molecule of DNA? Why?

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5. How would you describe the appearance of DNA to someone who has never seen it?

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6. What do you think it is about the biology of salmon and sperm cells that makes it easy to isolate a large quantity of DNA from salmon sperm?

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## OBSERVATIONS

Describe what you see as you perform the steps to isolate DNA.

1. What does the “thymus soup” look like? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How does its appearance change as you add the detergent and swirl it in? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What do you think is happening at this step? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Does the appearance of the mixture change as you add the meat tenderizer and swirl it in? If so, how?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What do you think is happening at this step? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Describe the appearance of the mixture just after you added the alcohol. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What do you think is happening at this step? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What did you see as you twirled the stick at the interface? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What do you think is happening at this step? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What happens as you slowly pull the stick out of the tube? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What does DNA look like? \_\_\_\_\_



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## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

1. Explain why DNA is so important to study.

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2. Describe in your own words how one isolates DNA from animal tissue.

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3. Explain the function of the following reagents: Woolite, Adolph's Meat Tenderizer, and alcohol.

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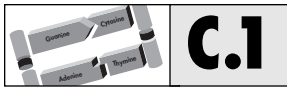
4. What does the DNA look like at the end of the procedure?

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## ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. Do you see any consistent relationship between the DNA bases (puzzle pieces) in one strand of your puzzle and the bases with which they are paired in the other strand? If so, state the nature of the relationship(s) you see.

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2. Half of the puzzle pieces that you were given (the A's and G's) were much larger than the other pieces (the C's and T's). Did this size difference cause your DNA model to be significantly wider in some parts than in others? If not, why not?

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3. Is there any consistent difference in the way that the pieces in the right-hand strands and the left-hand strands of your model are oriented? If so, what is the difference?

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4. How can you account for the fact that no matter which bases were selected for the left-hand strand of a DNA molecule, everyone had just the right pieces left over to assemble a matching right-hand strand?

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**Do Part B of the puzzle before you answer the next two questions.**

5. Are the two DNA puzzles you now have the same or different? How can you account for this?

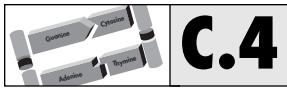
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6. What do you suppose biologists call this process of making two identical double-stranded DNA molecules from one when it occurs in cells?

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## ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

YOU HAVE NOW built two models of double-stranded DNA: the flat one in the puzzle at the beginning of this exercise that you used to deduce the base-pairing rules and how DNA is replicated (which we will call “model A”), and the one you have just built with straws and connectors (which we will call “model B”). As mentioned earlier, often two models of the same thing will be simplified in different ways to emphasize different features of the object they are representing.

1. What feature or features of a double-stranded DNA molecule are represented better in model A than in model B?

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2. What feature or features of a double-stranded DNA molecule are represented better in model B than in model A?

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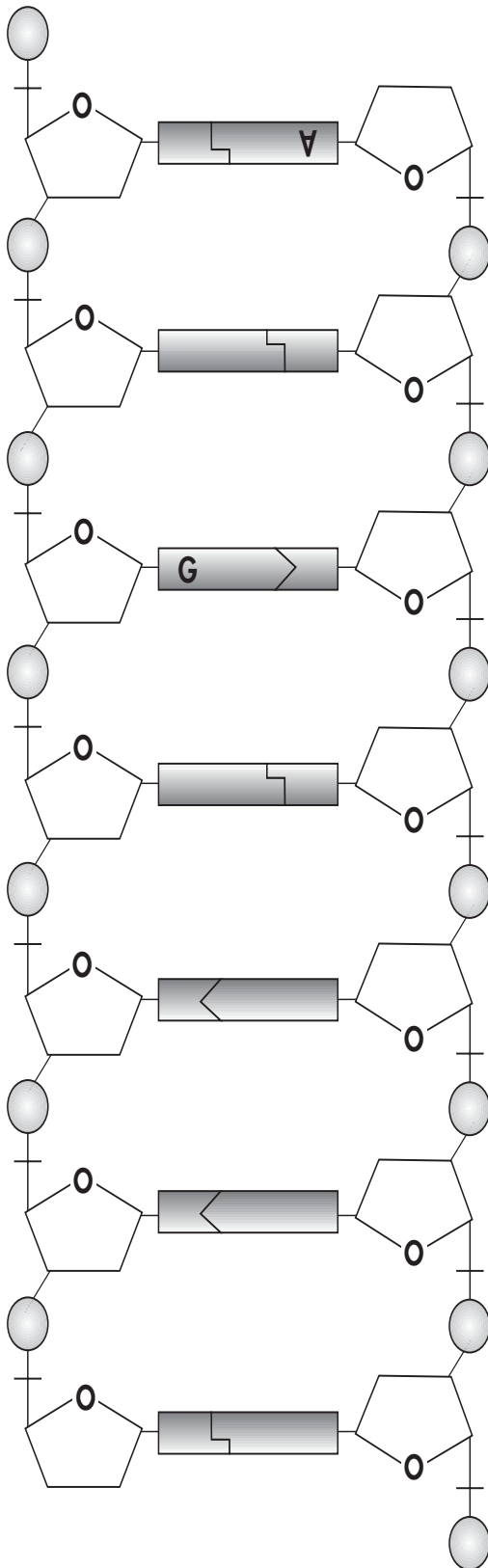
3. What feature or features of a double-stranded DNA molecule that you read about in the excerpt from the Cartoon Guide to Genetics are not well represented in either model A or model B?

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# DNA Model Questions



THE DIAGRAM ON THE left represents an untwisted, double-stranded DNA molecule.

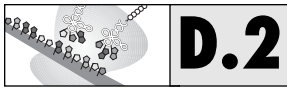
1. Label each sugar group on the diagram with a letter S.
2. Label each phosphate group with a letter P.
3. One adenine (A) and one guanine (G) have already been labeled. Label the rest of the nitrogenous bases.
4. Circle one nucleotide. What three things go together to make a nucleotide?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
5. The sides of the DNA ladder are made up of alternating \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ groups.
6. The rungs of the DNA ladder are made up of \_\_\_\_\_
7. A is always paired with \_\_\_\_\_
8. G is always paired with \_\_\_\_\_
9. Paired bases are held together by weak bonds called \_\_\_\_\_ bonds.
10. When the DNA ladder twists the way it normally does, the shape of the molecule is called a \_\_\_\_\_

# DNA Word Search

FIND AND CIRCLE the words that go with each of the clues given below. Then write the answers on the lines next to the clues.



- The nitrogenous base A \_\_\_\_\_
- The nitrogenous base C \_\_\_\_\_
- The nitrogenous base G \_\_\_\_\_
- The nitrogenous base T \_\_\_\_\_
- The genetic material inside all cells \_\_\_\_\_ (abbreviation)
- The full name for DNA \_\_\_\_\_
- The scientific name for the shape of the DNA molecule \_\_\_\_\_ (two words)
- The arrangement of two bases in the DNA molecule forms a \_\_\_\_\_ (two words)
- The name of the bonds that hold the two strands of DNA together (between the bases) \_\_\_\_\_ (two words)
- Pairs of these molecules form the steps or rungs in the DNA molecule \_\_\_\_\_ (two words)
- This subunit of DNA has three parts: a phosphate, a sugar and a nitrogenous base \_\_\_\_\_
- The long backbones of the DNA molecule are made of alternating sugar and \_\_\_\_\_ bonds.
- This process occurs when DNA makes a copy of itself \_\_\_\_\_



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## QUESTIONS ON "HOW DNA CODES FOR PROTEINS"

AFTER YOU HAVE read about protein synthesis in your excerpt from the *Cartoon Guide to Genetics*, answer the following questions.

1. What is the relationship between genes and proteins? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How does RNA differ from DNA? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the molecule that carries the information from a gene to the place where a protein will be made? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the process by which such a molecule is made? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the enzyme that mediates the process named above? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What is the structure on which proteins are made? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How many bases form one "word" of the RNA message? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What is the technical name for such a group of bases found on mRNA? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What is another term for protein synthesis? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What is the group of molecules that translates the genetic code? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What is an anticodon? \_\_\_\_\_
12. At the tail end of each tRNA molecule, an \_\_\_\_\_ attaches the appropriate \_\_\_\_\_ molecule to the tRNA.
13. What happens when two tRNAs are side by side on a ribosome? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. The first codon on an mRNA always is \_\_\_\_\_.
15. This codes for the amino acid called \_\_\_\_\_.



# Paper Proteins: Models for Simulating Gene Expression

## MATERIALS

For each student or pair of students:  
1 set of paper-protein puzzle pieces

## PROCEDURE

Follow the directions below to model the processes of transcription and translation, and to make a paper protein.

1. Place the DNA strip on the desk so that the letters read properly for you (fig. 1).
2. Working from left to right, find the mRNA pieces that match the DNA and line them up (fig. 2). What is the process in which an mRNA molecule that is complementary to a DNA molecule is produced?

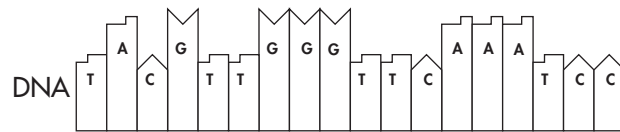


Figure 1

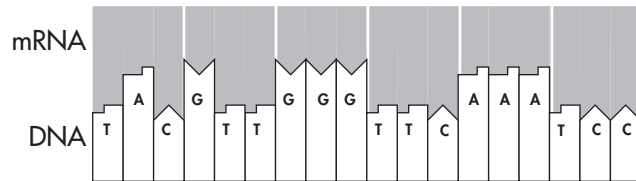


Figure 2

(Answer question 2 here)

3. Separate the mRNA from the DNA to simulate the mRNA moving out of the nucleus to a ribosome in the cytoplasm of the cell. Leave the mRNA pieces lined up next to one another (fig. 3).

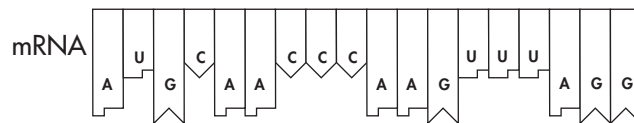


Figure 3

4. Match each of the tRNA pieces to the amino acid piece that fits with it (fig. 4). Lay them out so that all of them are visible.

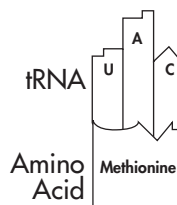
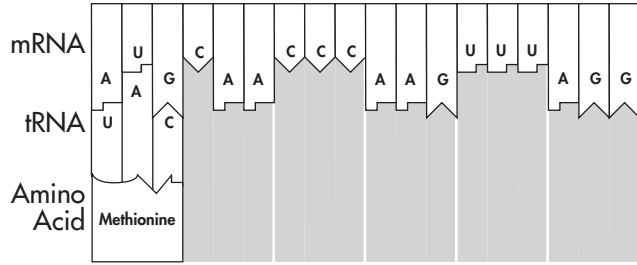


Figure 4

5. Search for the tRNA that will base pair with the first codon of the mRNA (the one on the left-hand end). Move the tRNA with its attached amino acid into place in the mRNA (fig. 5). Continue with the second codon, and so forth. What is the name for this process in which a protein is produced that has an amino acid sequence specified by an mRNA molecule?



**Figure 5**

\_\_\_\_\_ **(Answer question 5 here)**

6. Now pull the string of six amino acids away from the tRNA (fig. 6). These six amino acids represent a new protein. (However, real proteins always contain many more amino acids than this, sometimes more than a thousand.)



**Figure 6**

After you have completed these steps, use the model pieces to explain the two component processes of gene expression to another student. Then write out the steps in your own words. You may refer to your notes or a book to check for scientific accuracy.

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# Using the Genetic Code to Translate an mRNA

AT THE HEART OF the regular and predictable relationship between the sequence of nucleotides in any gene and the sequence of amino acids present in the protein for which that gene is said to “code” is a fixed set of nucleotide-to-amino acid relationships that is known as **the genetic code**. Just as the Morse code can be printed in the form of a table indicating which letter of the English alphabet is specified by each combination of dots and dashes, the genetic code is usually printed in the form of a table indicating what kind of amino acid is specified by each possible mRNA codon.

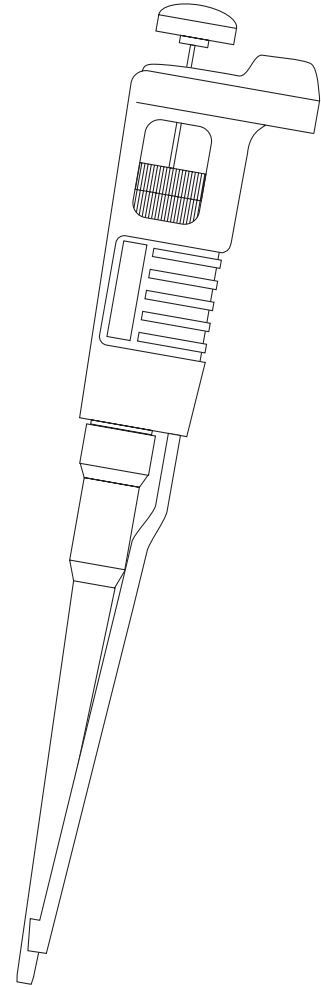
To the right is a DNA coding sequence that codes for part of the hemoglobin molecule. Complete the mRNA strand following base-pairing rules. Then use the mRNA Genetic Code Table on the next page to determine the amino acid sequence for which this piece of a gene codes.

DNA	mRNA	Amino Acid
T		
A		
C		
C		
A		
G		
T		
A		
A		
C		
T		
G		
T		
G		
G		
C		
T		
T		
C		
T		
C		
T		
C		
T		
C		
A		
T		
<p><b>Congratulations! You have just “synthesized” the first part (12 amino acids) of the protein called β-globin, which is part of the hemoglobin molecules that make your blood red and carry oxygen to cells throughout your body. (Each real β-globin molecule actually consists of a string of 147 amino acids.)</b></p>		

# Shine On!

## A. How to Read a Micropipettor (1000 $\mu\text{l}$ size)

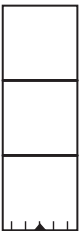
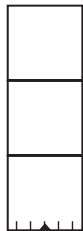
IN MODERN BIOLOGY LABS, it is often necessary to measure extremely small volumes of liquid. The measurements are usually in microliters ( $\mu\text{l}$ ). One microliter is 1/1,000,000 of a liter. Scientists use instruments called micropipettors to measure these small volumes. The first step in learning to use a micropipettor is to learn how to set it for the exact volume you want to transfer. To do this, you need to look at the window on the micropipettor. The numbers in the window represent the volume of liquid, shown in  $\mu\text{l}$  (microliters), that will be measured. The window looks like the ones pictured below. Due to differences in models, your micropipettor may be different than the one pictured.


 100  $\mu\text{l}$ 

 500  $\mu\text{l}$ 

 1000  $\mu\text{l}$ 

In the windows below, write the numbers that would indicate that the micropipettor was set properly to measure the given volumes.


 150  $\mu\text{l}$ 

 980  $\mu\text{l}$ 

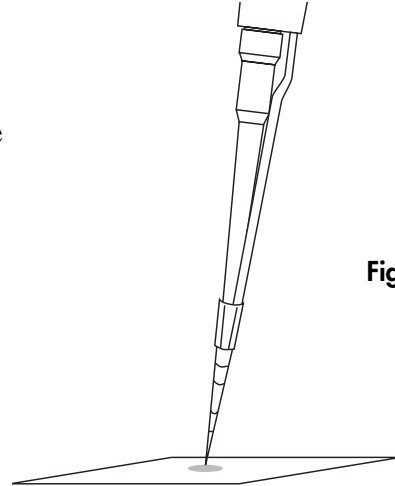
 240  $\mu\text{l}$ 

 556  $\mu\text{l}$ 

Now that you have filled in the windows, practice setting a micropipettor to the above volumes. Let your teacher check your work, especially when you set the volume of 556  $\mu\text{l}$ . This is a little tricky.

5. To expel the volume of liquid onto a piece of filter paper (fig. 5).

- a. Hold the tip of micropipettor directly above the labeled filter paper.
- b. Slowly push the plunger button all the way down (past the first stop to the second stop). Look at the tip to make sure all of the liquid came out.



**Figure 5**

6. To eject the tip:

- a. Hold the tip over a waste disposal container.
- b. Push the eject button.

7. Reset the numbers in the window to read 020 (fig. 6). Write 020 and your name on another piece of filter paper. Follow steps 3-5 to transfer this volume of liquid to the filter paper. What volume in  $\mu\text{l}$  does 020 represent?



**Figure 6**

\_\_\_\_\_

**(Answer question 7 here)**

8. Now reset the numbers in the window to read 024 (fig. 7). Write 024 and your name on another piece of filter paper and follow steps 3-6. What volume in  $\mu\text{l}$  does 024 represent?



**Figure 7**

\_\_\_\_\_

**(Answer question 8 here)**





Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

### LABORATORY WRITE UP

1 Purpose: Describe in your own words the reason for performing this experiment.

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2. Background Information: Give information about the idea of adding genes to bacteria in order to change their traits.

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3. Hypothesis: State the expected outcome of the experiment.

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4. Independent Variable: State the independent variable.

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5. Dependent Variable: State the dependent variable.

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6. Controls: List the controls.

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7. Procedure: Briefly describe in your own words the steps you took to perform the experiment.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

8. Data/Observations: Organize your data and observations into a neat, meaningful chart.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations for Future Experiments: Tell what the data mean. Were the results what you expected? Was your hypothesis on target? In addition, write a paragraph telling your ideas for future experiments (how to improve, what other things to try, any mistakes to correct, etc.).

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

### **ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENT: NEWS ARTICLE**

YOU ARE TO WRITE an article that is suitable to be printed in a newspaper and describes the Shine On experiment. Make your article interesting, informative, and scientifically accurate. Include the overall idea of the experiment as well as a brief description of the protocol and a conclusion. Your grammar and spelling need to be correct. The best articles may be submitted to the school newspaper.

#### NEWS ARTICLE GRADING SHEET

\_\_\_\_ Scientific accuracy

\_\_\_\_ Complete: Included introduction, brief procedure, description of the plates, conclusion

\_\_\_\_ Creativity/Interest

\_\_\_\_ Grammar/Spelling

\_\_\_\_ Total