

# DNA DOUBLE HELIX



## Activity overview

A bit like a recipe book, all the biological instructions for making an organism are contained in a long molecule called DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid). All living things, from humans and mice to plants and bacteria, have a unique set of instructions written in the four chemical letters of DNA: A, C, G, and T.

Although it's not visible to the human eye we know that DNA has a unique shape. It is a double helix, and looks a bit like a twisted ladder.

Each strand of the ladder is made of a long string of four chemical letters: A, C, G, and T. These letters always pair up in the same way: A always pairs with T, and C always pairs with G. So we know that when we have a T on one strand of the ladder, the other side will always be A, and if we found a G, the letter opposite it would be a C.

In this activity pupils will learn about the structure of DNA by creating their own model of a DNA molecule using jelly babies and cocktail sticks.





## Supporting resources

There are some online resources that you may wish to use to support these activities.

### What is DNA?

<http://www.yourgenome.org/facts/what-is-dna>

### Making a DNA origami double helix

<http://www.yourgenome.org/activities/origami-dna>

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jOapfqVZlo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jOapfqVZlo)

(4.18 minutes, yourgenome)

### DNA models from recycled materials

<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/modelling-dna-double-helix-from-recycled-materials-6191303#>

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