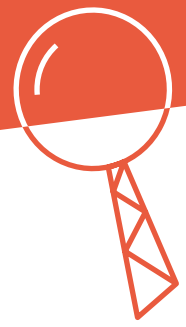


# EXTRACTING DNA



## 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.

To be able to read the chemical letters in DNA and understand how it makes us who we are, scientists first need to get it out of our cells. In humans and animals DNA can be got from small samples of blood or saliva, and in plants from their leaves or their flesh.

Without blood and saliva, it is difficult to extract DNA from people and animals that lived thousands of years ago but scientists have developed ways of getting DNA from teeth and bones.

In this activity pupils will learn how to extract the DNA from strawberries. The activity can be carried out in groups of four with adult supervision. Each pupil should end up with a sample of strawberry DNA.

## Supporting resources

There are some online resources that you may wish to use to support this activity.

### What is DNA?

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

### Where is DNA found?

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

### How to extract DNA from your cheek cells

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DaaRrR-ZHP4>

(2.45 minutes, PBS)



## Scientist support at your school

If you would like a scientist to visit your school to support your class with this activity, please contact us on [engage@wgc.org.uk](mailto:engage@wgc.org.uk). Please give us at least three weeks' notice from your preferred date.

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