



## 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.

Within the DNA code are the instructions for all the proteins that our body needs to function. Proteins are the main biological building blocks and machinery in our cells. Different proteins have different jobs in the body, like digesting food and making energy.

In this activity pupils will use a code cracker wheel to decode sequences of DNA into protein sequences. They will then try to find out what these proteins do by matching them to our protein profiles. The activity can be carried out in teams of four code crackers.

## 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>

### What does DNA do?

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

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