

Structure and Replication of DNA: The Double Helix

Composition of DNA

Erwin Chargaff (Columbia Univ.) studied DNAs from various sources and analyzed the distribution of purines and pyrimidines in them.

The distribution of the bases adenine (A), guanine (G), thymine (T), and cytosine (C) varied among species.

But the total purines (A and G) and the total pyrimidines (T and C) were always equal.

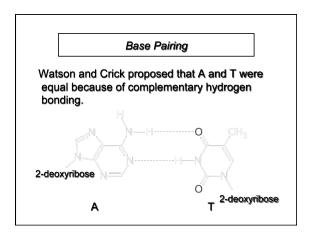
Moreover: %A = %T, and %G = %C

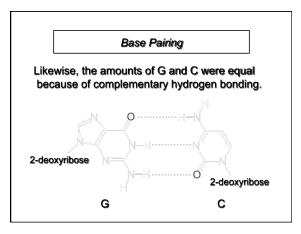
For example:	
Purine	Pyrimidine
Adenine (A) 30.3%	Thymine (T) 30.3%
Guanine (G) 19.5%	Cytosine (C) 19.9%
Total purines: 49.8%	Total pyrimidines: 50.1%

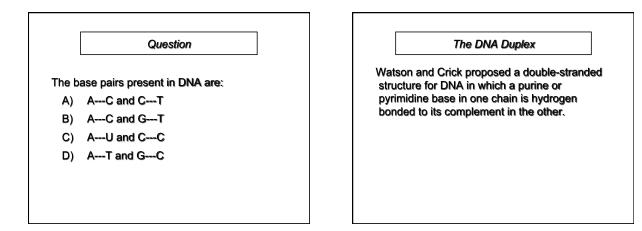
Question

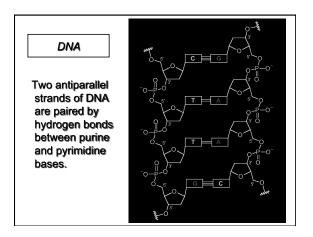
Estimate the guanine content of turtle DNA if adenine = 28.7% and cytosine = 21.3%.

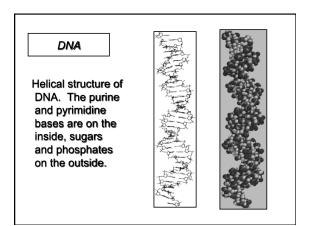
- A) 28.7%
- B) 21.3%
- C) 57.4%
- D) 42.6%

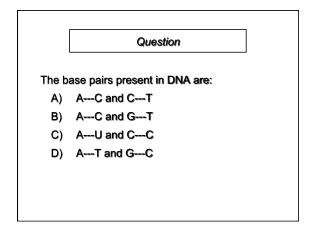


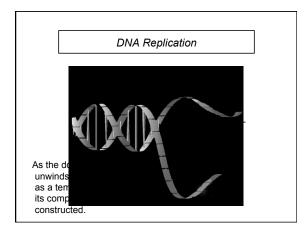


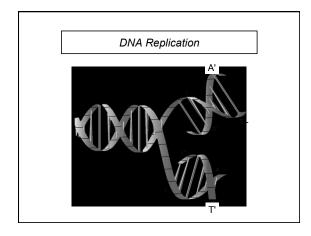


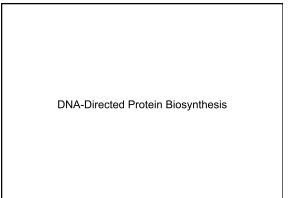










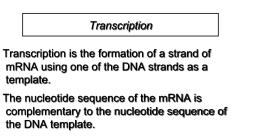


DNA and Protein Biosynthesis

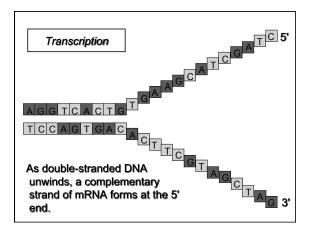
According to Crick, the "central dogma" of molecular biology is: "DNA makes RNA makes protein."

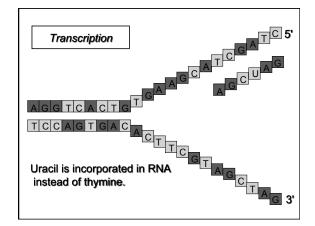
Three kinds of RNA are involved. messenger RNA (mRNA) transfer RNA (tRNA) ribosomal RNA (rRNA)

There are two main stages. transcription translation



Transcription begins at the 5' end of DNA and is catalyzed by the enzyme *RNA polymerase*.





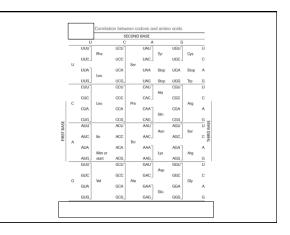
Translation

The nucleotide sequence of mRNA codes for the different amino acids found in proteins.

There are three nucleotides per codon.

There are 64 possible combinations of A, U, G, and C.

The genetic code is redundant. Some proteins are coded for by more than one codon.



Transfer tRNA

There are 20 different tRNAs, one for each amino acid.

Each tRNA is single stranded with a CCA triplet at its 3' end.

A particular amino acid is attached to the tRNA by an ester linkage involving the carboxyl group of the amino acid and the 3' oxygen of the tRNA.

