

Our Genetic Makeup in Brief

- Your genes are part of what makes you the person you are. You are different from everyone alive now and everyone who has ever lived.
- Genes are made of a chemical called DNA or 'deoxyribonucleic acid'.
- DNA molecules have a double helical structure composed of four chemical building blocks or bases G, C, A and T.
- The human genome is made up of 3 billion bases of DNA that are packaged into 23 pairs of chromosomes in the nucleus of every cell in the body.
- Our genome contains approximately 21,000 genes (<2% of the DNA) that encode all the proteins in the body.
- A few proteins are encoded by DNA that is found in within organelles called mitochondria.

