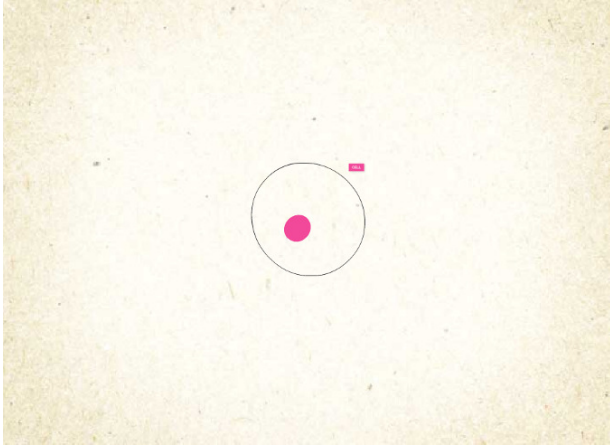
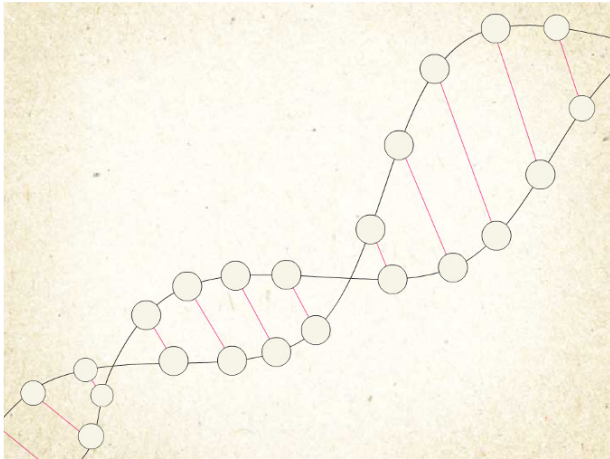


## Your genes

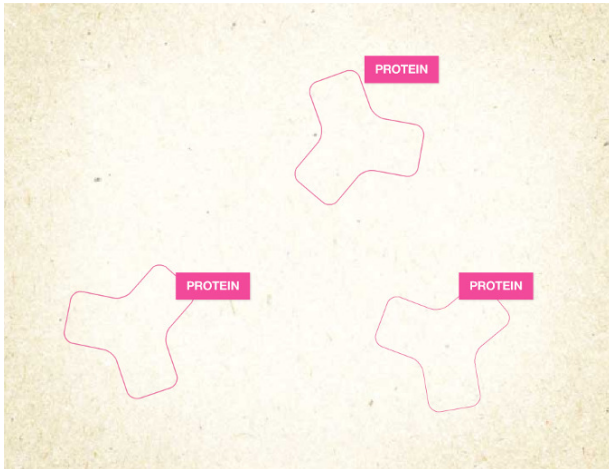
Hidden inside every cell in your body is a chemical called DNA - the 'code of life'.



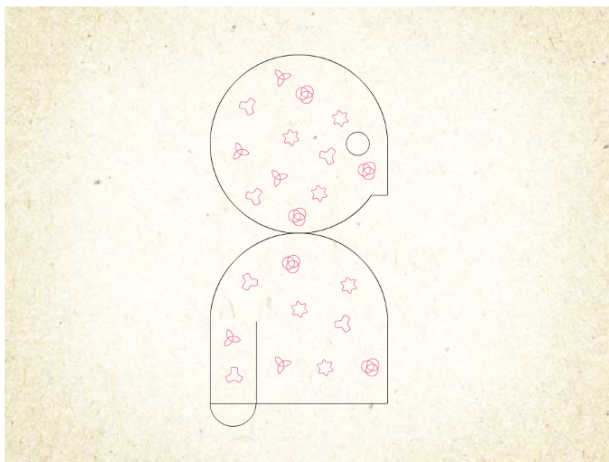
DNA consists of two long strands of four different chemical units. Some sections of DNA are called genes.



You have about 20,000 different genes in every cell. Most genes act as templates for making proteins. The gene sequence determines the order of amino acids that build proteins.



Proteins perform a huge range of different tasks all around the body such as powering muscles, carrying messages between cells, controlling the speed of chemical reactions, attacking invading bacteria.



All your cells contain the same genes. Scientists are still trying to understand how each cell decides which of these it needs to use.

