

Genetic Jewels: Building the DNA Model

Introduction

The real family treasures are not jewels at all they are the DNA molecules that have constructed each member your family. These immortal coils have carried your family's genetic information through vast reaches of time to the present. The digital information encoded within the molecule constructs and orchestrates intricately formed protein bodies... you! Your protein body, if it is successful, lives, grows, matures and reproduces-- you help make a baby. Next comes the hard part. It takes total commitment to raise your new protein body, your baby. With love, encouragement, education and hard work, your "family treasures" may have the chance to leap into the future! You may see part of your DNA live on in your grandchildren and great grandchildren.

DNA stands for Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid. The structure of DNA was unraveled in 1953 in Cambridge, England by two researchers, Francis Crick (English) and James Watson (American). These two men will be honored in the future for as many centuries as Aristotle and Plato have been in the past. Their contribution to our understanding of life and ourselves is vast and far-reaching. The molecule itself is elegant in its simplicity, and makes great jewelry!

The DNA molecule is composed of four different nucleotide bases. They are Adenine, Guanine, Thymine and Cytosine. The Adenine and Thymine are molecular mates as are the Guanine and Cytosine. These are held in a long helix shape by a backbone of phosphate and deoxyribose sugar. The data contained within the DNA molecule is digital and is processed and passed on from generation to generation with very few errors or changes. The DNA you inherited from your ancestors resides in almost every one of the cells of your body. A "half set" resides in each of your reproductive cells, waiting for a complement, so they may "jump" into the future!