NUCLEIC ACIDS

Nucleic acids such as deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and ribonucleic acid (RNA) are composed of monomers known as nucleotides. DNA is a long, linear polymer of four different nucleotides — adenine, thymine, guanine and cytosine (A,T,G,C). The sequence of these four nucleotides in your DNA specifies the sequence of amino acids in your proteins. Two strands of DNA wrap around each other to form a right-handed double helix. This double helix contains complementary A-T and G-C base pairs. In 2001, researchers determined the exact nucleotide sequence of the 3.2 billion base pairs of the human genome.

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