

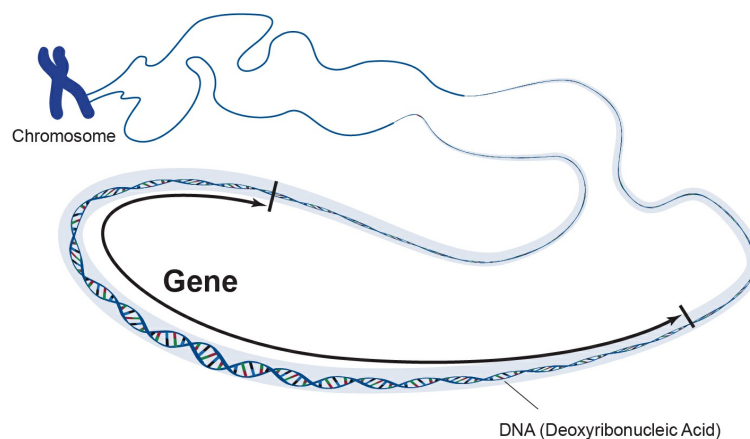
[Open Peer Review on Qeios](#)

Gene

National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)

Source

National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI). *Gene*.



The gene is the basic physical unit of inheritance. Genes are passed from parents to offspring and contain the information needed to specify traits. Genes are arranged, one after another, on structures called chromosomes. A chromosome contains a single, long DNA molecule, only a portion of which corresponds to a single gene. Humans have approximately 20,000 genes arranged on their chromosomes.