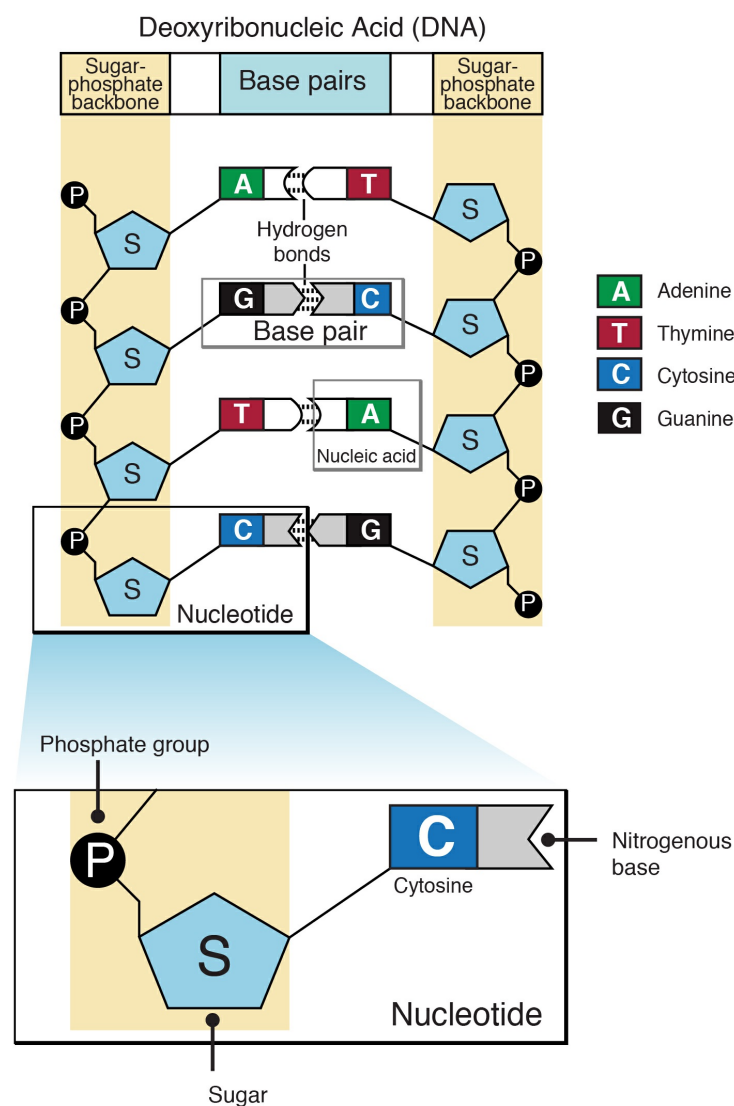


Nucleotide

National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)

Source

National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI). [Nucleotide](#).



Figure

A nucleotide is the basic building block of nucleic acids. RNA and DNA are polymers made of long chains of nucleotides. A nucleotide consists of a sugar molecule (either ribose in RNA or deoxyribose in DNA) attached to a phosphate group and a nitrogen-containing base. The bases used in DNA are adenine (A), cytosine (C), guanine (G), and thymine (T).

In RNA, the base uracil (U) takes the place of thymine.