

[Open Peer Review on Qeios](#)

# Deoxyribonucleic Acid

National Cancer Institute (NCI)

## Source

National Cancer Institute (NCI). *Deoxyribonucleic Acid*.

The molecular basis of heredity; encodes the genetic information responsible for the development and function of an organism and allows for transmission of that genetic information from one generation to the next. The DNA molecule is structured as a double-stranded helix held together by weak hydrogen bonds between purine-pyrimidine nucleotide base pairs: adenine (A) paired with thymine (T), and guanine (G) paired with cytosine (C). Also called DNA.