

- Genetics
- Chapter 1

1. What were the big milestone moments covered?

- Genetics is rooted in the research of **Gregor Mendel**, a monk who discovered how traits are inherited.
- The molecular basis of heredity revealed when **James Watson** and **Francis Crick** elucidated the structure of DNA.
- The Human Genome Project is currently engaged in the detailed analysis of human DNA.

2. What is a Gene?

- **Gregor Mendel** postulated the existence of particular factors responsible for the traits he studied, these factors are called **Genes**.
- He discovered that these genes exist in different forms, called **Alleles**.
- Different Alleles of a gene can be brought together through Hybridization and can then be separated from each other during production of gametes.
- Alleles of the same gene separate during formation. (**Rules of inheritance**).
- Alleles of different gene are inherited independently. (**Rules of inheritance**).
- Genes consist of complex molecules called **nucleic acids**.
- Nucleic acids are made of elementary building blocks called **Nucleotides**.

➤ Each nucleotide has 3 components:

- 1- A sugar molecule.
- 2- A Phosphate molecule. (**has acidic chemical properties**).
- 3- A nitrogen - Containing molecule. (**has basic chemical properties**).

- In **ribonucleic acid (RNA)** the sugar is **ribose**.
- In **deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)** the sugar is **deoxyribose**.
- Within RNA or DNA, one nucleotide is different from another by its **nitrogen - Containing base**.
- In RNA, four kinds of bases are:
 - 1- adenine (A)
 - 2- guanine (G)
 - 3- Cytosine (C)
 - 4- uracil (U)
- In DNA:
 - 1- adenine (A)
 - 2- cytosine (C)
 - 3- guanine (G)
 - 4- Thymine (T)
- In both DNA and RNA there are Four Kinds of nucleotides, but Three of them are shared by both types of nucleic acid molecules.

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