# Science Home Learning Pack:



Suitable for 5-7 years



Pretend to be a doctor! Use the information on this page to create a poster telling your patients about the importance of the brain.

Content from: Science Squad





## Amazing DNA

DNA is made of long molecules. Each molecule is made up of two parts joined together like a twisted rope ladder. DNA carries instructions on how to make cells work, and how different types of cells develop and join together to build a living thing, such as a plant or animal.

## What is a gene?

Every cell in your body contains a set of about 20,000 genes. All living things pass on their genes to their offspring. Sexual reproduction combines two sets

# Inheritance

Your genes are a set of chemical instructions for building someone just like you. You inherit them from your parents, which is why you are like them in many ways. But unless you are a twin, your genes are unique.

#### Tiny cells

Cells are the building blocks that make up all living things. Each cell in your body contains a complete set of genes – the information to make you as you are.



Chromosomes

Your genes are organised into 46 chromosomes, arranged in 23 pairs. Genes and chromosomes are made from the chemical called DNA.



You can only roll your tongue if the right genes are active.

What does DNA stand for?

## Colour blindness

Some people have a gene which causes them to be colour blind. Look at the circle below. If you can see the number inside then you aren't colour blind.



Who do you look like? Children have a mixture of genes from their parents. This is why you might have your mum's eyes but your dad's smile!

This child has inherited her hair and skin colour from her mothe

Suitable for 7-9 years



## Seeing double

Identical twins share most of their genes. A quarter of these are mirror twins, which means that they are a mirror image of each other. For example, they might have an identical mole, but on the opposite arm to each other.



Available now



Deoxyribonucleic acid.



Look at a photo of you and your parents. What features do you have that are the same as them? Write about the features you've inherited from them.

Content from: First Science Encyclopedia by Steve Mould



## Let's experiment!

Would you like to have a go at seeing DNA yourself? Try this fun experiment, which you can do at home. You'll be getting DNA out of strawberries.



## YOU WILL NEED

- 2 beakers or plastic cups
- >> 2 tsp washing-up liquid
- >> 1 tsp salt
- >> 1/2 cup water
- 2 strawberries
- 1 resealable plastic bag
- >> Sieve or coffee filter
- » ½ cup ice−cold surgical spirit
- >> Tweezers
- ≫1 scientist (that's you!)

# Can I see DNA?

It's very hard to know what something is like **unless you can** see it. DNA is very tiny and hidden in our cells, but we have some tricks for getting it out and having a look at it!

Preparing the

DNA-extraction mixture

2 teaspoons of washing-up

liquid, 1 teaspoon of salt,

Don't eat

these!

and ½ cup of water.

In a beaker, mix together

WARNING! Surgical spirit contains a lot of alcohol. It is used as an antiseptic to kill germs, but it's also poisonous, so you must never drink it. It can also catch fire very easily. Use it only with the help of an adult in an airy, or well-ventilated, area, and make sure you do not breathe in its fumes.



Breaking open the cells Put the strawberries into the plastic bag, seal it, and crush them well with your fingers. Add 2 teaspoons of the DNAextraction mixture, reseal the bag, and continue crushing for another minute.



# **UNDER THE** MICROSCOPE

We still haven't seen the DNA in much detail, have we? Very powerful microscopes can help us here...



Seeing chromosomes

up and copy themselves.

It's often hard to see DNA in cells because the

chromosomes are all spread out. However, when

cells get ready to divide, the chromosomes pack

#### Viral DNA

Separating the DNA

Sieve the strawberry liquid into the other

spirit, pouring it down the side of the

clean beaker. Then, gently add the surgical

beaker. Use about the same amount as there

is of strawberry liquid. **DO NOT** mix or stir.

An electron microscope uses a beam of incredibly tiny particles to show microscopic objects, such as this DNA (blue) from a virus.

Dalla

DNA





### Seeing the DNA Look for a white, cloudy layer at the top of the mixture. You can tilt the cup and pick up this layer using the tweezers. That's the DNA!

MOM





Now you know all about DNA, have a go at the activity asking an adult for help if you need it.

Suitable for 7-9 years

Content from: The DNA Book **Available May** 

# Senses

We experience the world around us through our senses. Tiny points around our bodies called sensory receptors collect information about the world outside. This keeps the body safe. It also keeps things such as temperature at the right level, so the body can work properly. Special senses such as sight use a whole organ to gather information.

## **Sensory receptors**

These points around the body gather different information. When you feel hot, your temperature receptors detect this. They send information to the brain, which tells you to take your jumper off so you don't overheat!



# Sound

Hearing is a special sense. It helps us communicate with others. Listening to sounds helps us to stay safe. When you hear a car coming, you know not to cross the road.



# Pressure

Pressure receptors tell us how hard to grip things. Pressure receptors in the fingers tell you how hard to hold things so they don't get damaged.

# TASTE

Taste is a special sense. Taste buds detect different types of taste, telling you if the food you're eating is sweet or sour.





# Pain

Feeling pain is not nice, but it keeps our bodies safe. Pain receptors detect the pain and you know not to bump your head again!



Smell is a special sense. The nose has smell receptors. Food that's gone off smells bad. When you smell it, you don't want to eat it. This protects your body.



Sight is a special sense with its own organ, the eye. Seeing things with our eyes tells us a lot about the world. It helps us not to walk into things!

Balance is

sensed in

the ear.

# Balance

Our sense of balance helps us not to fall over. Having poor balance means we might fall over a lot. Being able to walk in a straight line means you have good balance.



Read this page, then create your own Sense Diary – each hour, write down one thing you see, smell, hear, taste, and touch.

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Content from: *DKfindout! Human Body* Available now Discover more at: www.dkfindout.com/uk