

DNA CODE

- only 4 letters in DNA code "alphabet": A T G C
- 3 base letters make a DNA code "word" called a CODON
- codons are directions for making 20 different AMINO ACIDS which make PROTEINS
- mRNA "reads" DNA and sends message to ribosomes where tRNA brings correct amino acids together to form proteins
- proteins control cellular activities like growth, cell repair, digestion, eye color, etc.
- letters must be read in order to make sense or a mutation may occur
- mutations are a change in DNA which may cause an incorrect protein to be made
- mutations can be helpful as well as harmful