

NUCLEIC ACID NOTES

DNA

- Deoxyribonucleic Acid
- found in nucleus of cell
- chromosomes are made of DNA

STRUCTURE

- twisted ladder shape
(DOUBLE HELIX)
- sides of ladder are made of sugar and phosphate groups
- rungs or steps are made of nitrogen bases:

ADENINE (A)
THYMINE (T)
GUANINE (G)
CYTOSINE (C)

- Adenine pairs with Thymine
A - T T - A
- Guanine pairs with Cytosine
G - C C - G

DNA CODE

- 4 letters in DNA "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**
- amino acids combine to make **PROTEINS**