

Overview: The Molecules of Life

- All living things are made up of four classes of large biological molecules: carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, and nucleic acids
- Within cells, small organic molecules are joined together to form larger molecules
- Macromolecules are large molecules composed of thousands of covalently connected atoms
- Molecular structure and function are inseparable

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Concept 5.1: Macromolecules are polymers, built from monomers

- A polymer is a long molecule consisting of many similar building blocks
- These small building-block molecules are called monomers
- Three of the four classes of life's organic molecules are polymers:
 - Carbohydrates
 - Proteins
 - Nucleic acids

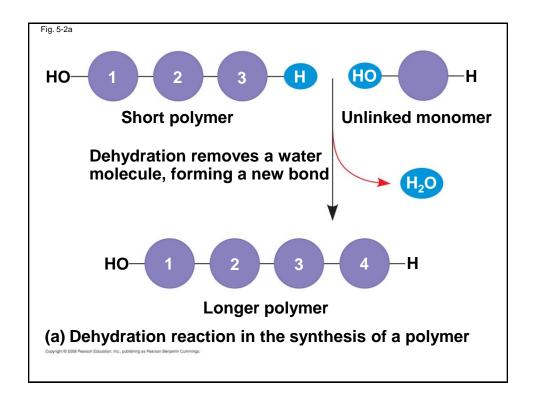
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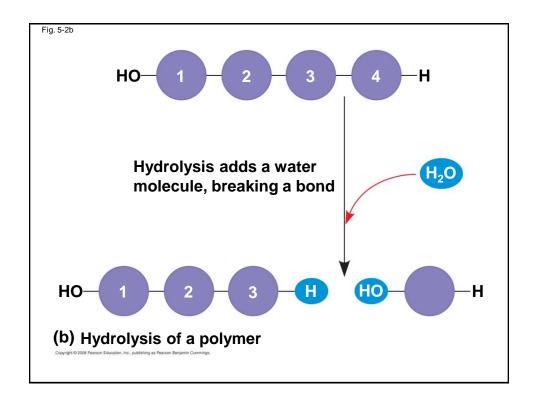
The Synthesis and Breakdown of Polymers

- A condensation reaction or more specifically a dehydration reaction occurs when two monomers bond together through the loss of a water molecule
- Enzymes are macromolecules that speed up the dehydration process
- Polymers are disassembled to monomers by hydrolysis, a reaction that is essentially the reverse of the dehydration reaction

PLAY Animation: Polymers

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The Diversity of Polymers

- Each cell has thousands of different kinds of macromolecules
- Macromolecules vary among cells of an organism, vary more within a species, and vary even more between species
- What is the basis of this diversity??
- An immense variety of polymers can be built from a small set of monomers

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Concept 5.2: Carbohydrates serve as fuel and building material

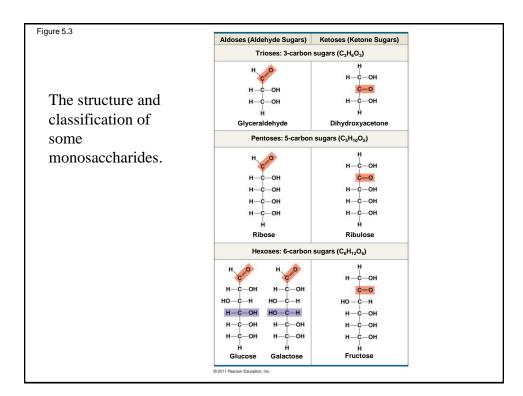
- Carbohydrates include sugars and the polymers of sugars
- The simplest carbohydrates are monosaccharides, or single sugars
- Carbohydrate macromolecules are polysaccharides, polymers composed of many sugar building blocks

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Sugars

- Monosaccharides have molecular formulas that are usually multiples of (CH₂O)n
- Glucose (C₆H₁₂O₆) is the most common monosaccharide
- Most names of sugars end in -ose
- Monosaccharides are classified by
 - The location of the carbonyl group (as aldose or ketose)
 - The number of carbons in the carbon skeleton

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- Though often drawn as linear skeletons, in aqueous solutions many sugars form rings
- Monosaccharides serve as a major fuel for cells and as raw material for building molecules

Linear and ring forms of glucose

Linear and ring forms of glucose

Hogged OH Hogged O

- A disaccharide is formed when a dehydration reaction joins two monosaccharides
- This covalent bond is called a glycosidic linkage
- Examples of disaccharides:

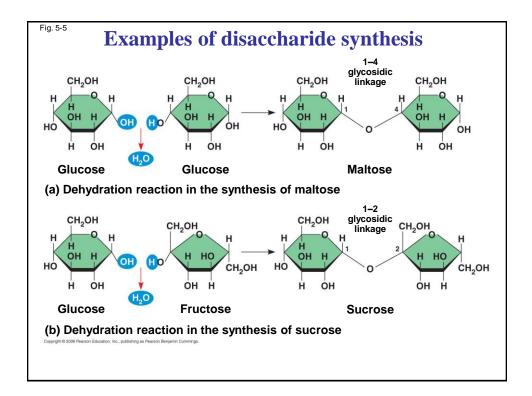
Sucrose: Glucose + fructose

Maltose: glucose + glucose

Lactose: glucose + galactose

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Polysaccharides

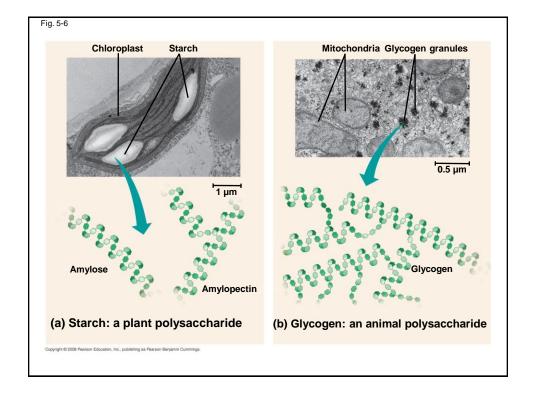
- Polysaccharides, the polymers of sugars, have storage and structural roles
- The structure and function of a polysaccharide are determined by its sugar monomers and the positions of glycosidic linkages

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Storage Polysaccharides

- Starch:
- A storage polysaccharide of plants, consists entirely of α-glucose monomers
- Plants store surplus starch as granules within chloroplasts and other plastids

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Glycogen:

- Is a storage polysaccharide in animals
- Humans and other vertebrates store glycogen mainly in liver and muscle cells

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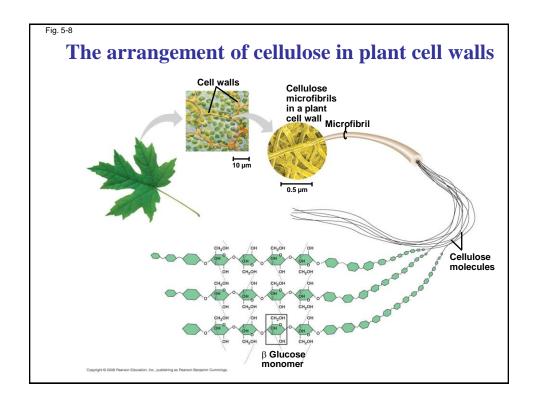
Structural Polysaccharides

- Cellulose:
- The polysaccharide cellulose is a major component of the tough wall of plant cells
- Like starch, cellulose is a polymer of glucose, but the glycosidic linkages differ
- The difference is based on two ring forms for glucose: alpha (α) and beta (β)

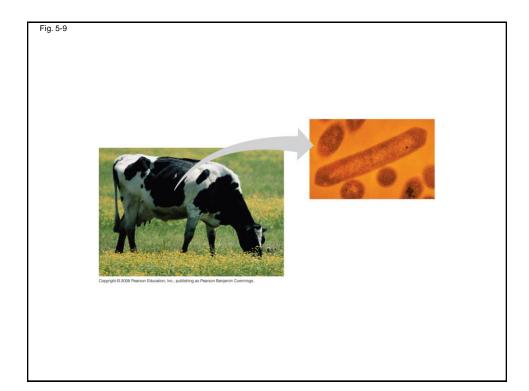
PLAY Animation: Polysaccharides

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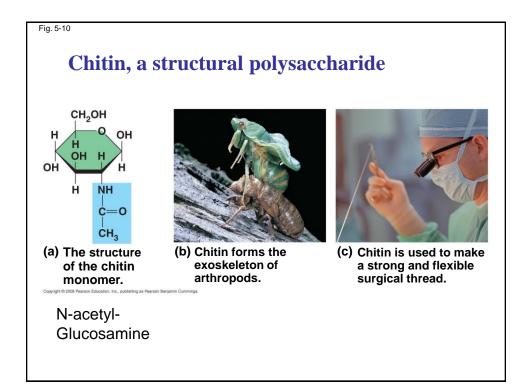
- Polymers with α glucose are helical
- Polymers with β glucose are straight
- In straight structures, H atoms on one strand can bond with OH groups on other strands
- Parallel cellulose molecules held together this way are grouped into microfibrils, which form strong building materials for plants



- Enzymes that digest starch by <u>hydrolyzing α </u> <u>linkages can't hydrolyze β linkages in cellulose</u>
- Cellulose in human food passes through the digestive tract as insoluble fiber
- Some microbes secrete enzymes to digest cellulose
- Many herbivores, from cows to termites, have symbiotic relationships with these microbes



- Chitin
- Another structural polysaccharide, found in the exoskeleton of arthropods
- Chitin also provides structural support for the cell walls of many fungi



Concept 5.3: Lipids are a diverse group of hydrophobic molecules

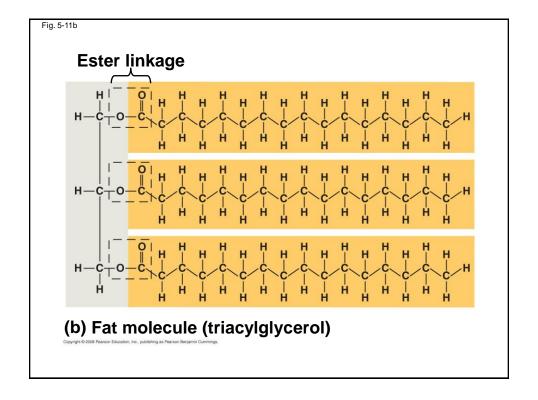
- Lipids are the one class of large biological molecules that do not form polymers
- The unifying feature of lipids is having little or no affinity for water
- Lipids are hydrophobic because they consist mostly of hydrocarbons, which form nonpolar covalent bonds
- The most biologically important lipids are fats, phospholipids, and steroids

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Fats

- Fats are constructed from two types of smaller molecules: glycerol and fatty acids
- Glycerol is a three-carbon alcohol with a hydroxyl group attached to each carbon
- A fatty acid consists of a carboxyl group attached to a long carbon skeleton

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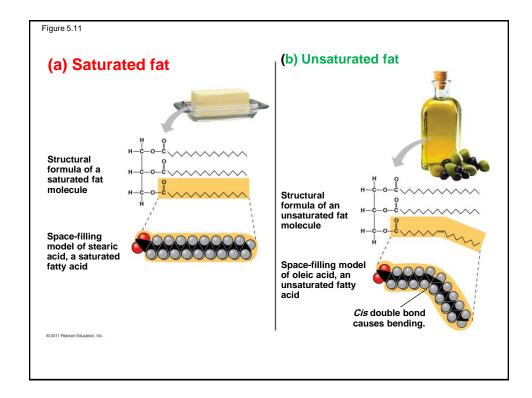


- Fats separate from water because water molecules form hydrogen bonds with each other and exclude the fats
- In a fat, three fatty acids are joined to a glycerol by an ester linkage, creating a triacylglycerol, or triglyceride

- Fatty acids vary <u>in length</u> (number of carbons) and in the <u>number and locations of double</u> <u>bonds</u>
- Saturated fatty acids have the maximum number of hydrogen atoms possible and no double bonds
- <u>Unsaturated fatty acids</u> have one or more double bonds



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- Fats made from saturated fatty acids are called saturated fats, and are solid at room temperature
- Most animal fats are saturated
- Fats made from unsaturated fatty acids are called unsaturated fats or oils, and are liquid at room temperature
- Plant fats and fish fats are usually unsaturated

- A diet rich in saturated fats may contribute to cardiovascular disease through plaque deposits
- Hydrogenation is the process of converting unsaturated fats to saturated fats by adding hydrogen
- Hydrogenating vegetable oils also creates unsaturated fats with trans double bonds
- These trans fats may contribute more than saturated fats to cardiovascular disease

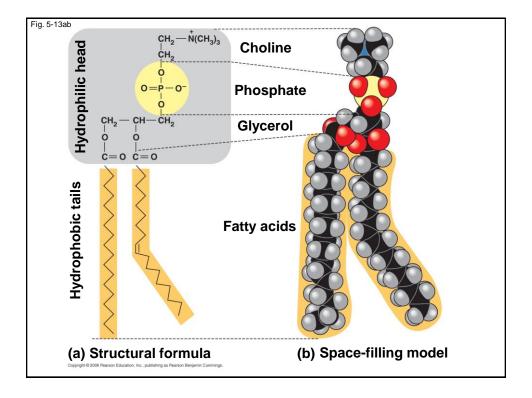
- The major function of fats is energy storage
- Humans and other mammals store their fat in adipose cells
- Adipose tissue also cushions vital organs and insulates the body

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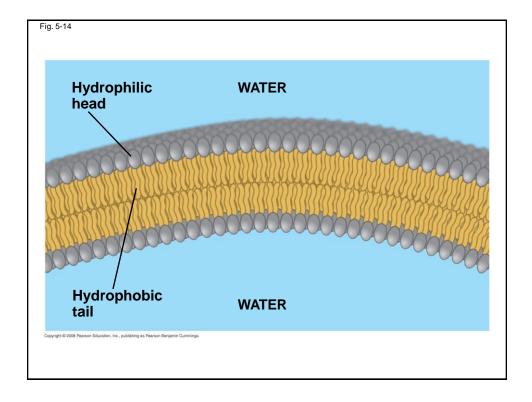
Phospholipids

- In a phospholipid, two fatty acids and a phosphate group are attached to glycerol
- The two fatty acid tails are hydrophobic, but the phosphate group and its attachments form a hydrophilic head

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- When phospholipids are added to water, they self-assemble into <u>a bilayer</u>, with the hydrophobic tails pointing toward the interior
- The structure of phospholipids results in a bilayer arrangement found in cell membranes
- Phospholipids are the major component of all cell membranes



Steroids

- Steroids are lipids characterized by a carbon skeleton consisting of four fused rings
- Cholesterol, an important steroid, is a component in animal cell membranes
- Although cholesterol is essential in animals, high levels in the blood may contribute to cardiovascular disease

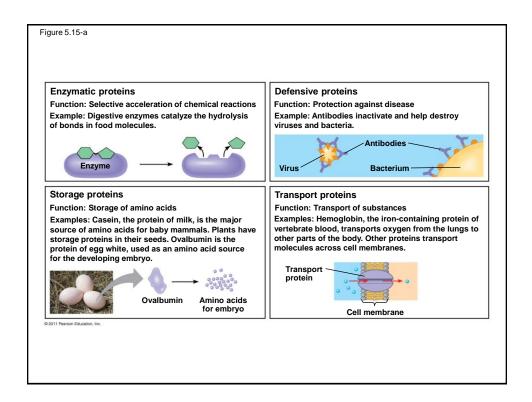
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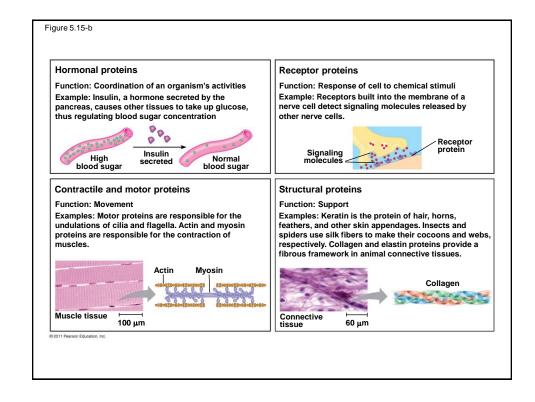
Concept 5.4: Proteins have many structures, resulting in a wide range of functions

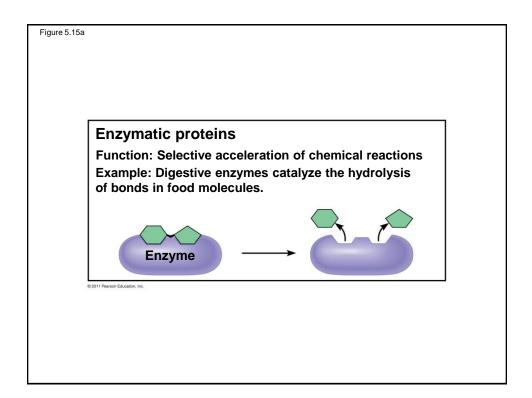
- Proteins account for more than 50% of the dry mass of most cells
- Protein functions include: structural support, storage, transport, cellular communications, movement, and defense against foreign substances

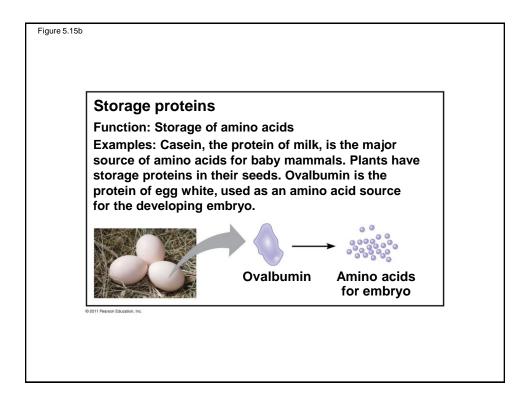
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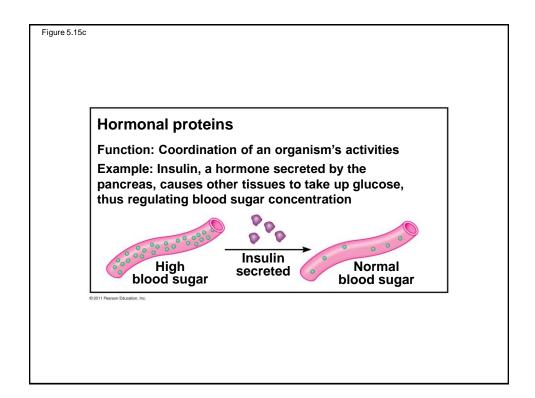
| able 5.1 An Overview of Protein Functions | | |
|---|--|---|
| Type of Protein | Function | Examples |
| Enzymatic proteins | Selective acceleration of chemical reactions | Digestive enzymes |
| Structural proteins | Support | Silk fibers; collagen and elastin in animal connective tissues; keratin in hair, horns, feathers, and other skin appendages |
| Storage proteins | Storage of amino acids | Ovalbumin in egg white; casein, the protein of milk; storage proteins in plant seeds $% \left\{ \left\{ 1,2,,n\right\} \right\} =0$ |
| Transport proteins | Transport of other substances | Hemoglobin, transport proteins |
| Hormonal proteins | Coordination of an organism's activities | Insulin, a hormone secreted by the pancreas |
| Receptor proteins | Response of cell to chemical stimuli | Receptors in nerve cell membranes |
| Contractile and motor proteins | Movement | Actin and myosin in muscles, proteins in cilia and flagella |
| Defensive proteins | Protection against disease | Antibodies combat bacteria and viruses. |

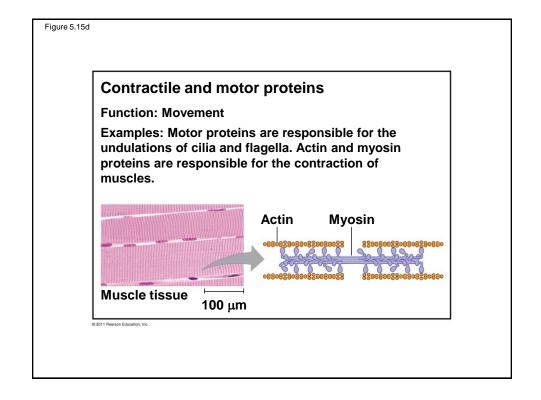


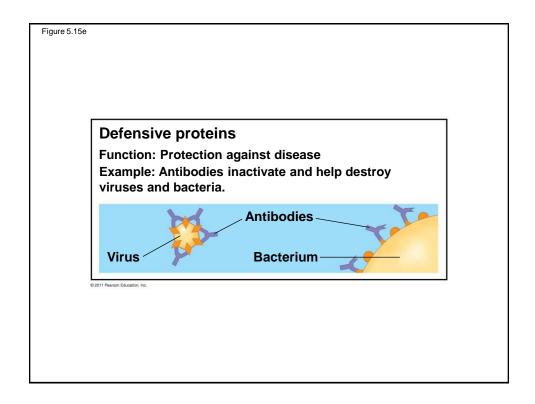


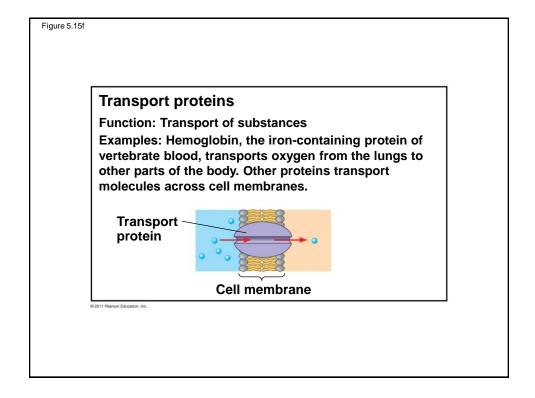


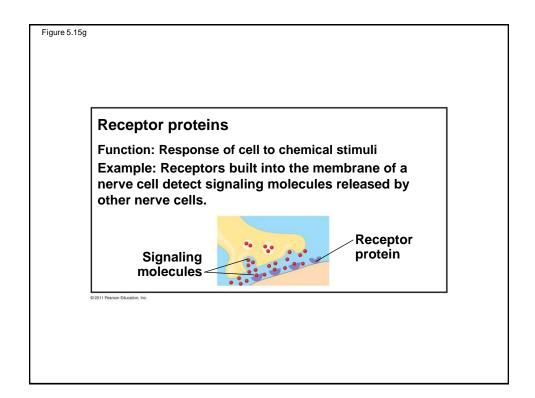


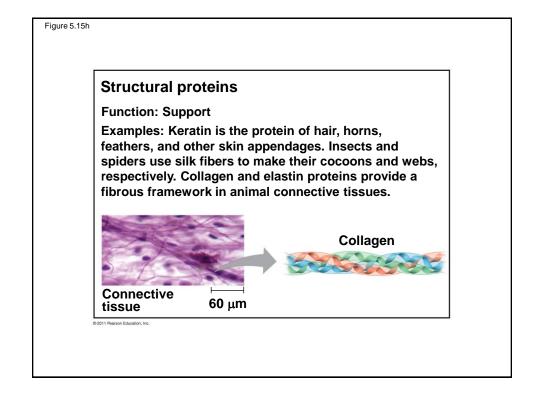










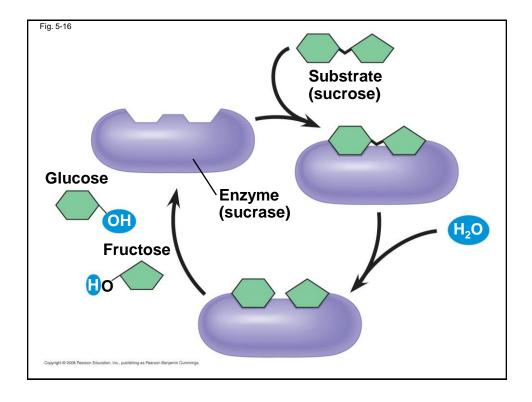


- Enzymes are a type of protein that acts as a catalyst to speed up chemical reactions
- Enzymes can perform their functions repeatedly, functioning as workhorses that carry out the processes of life

PLAY

Animation: Enzymes

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Polypeptides

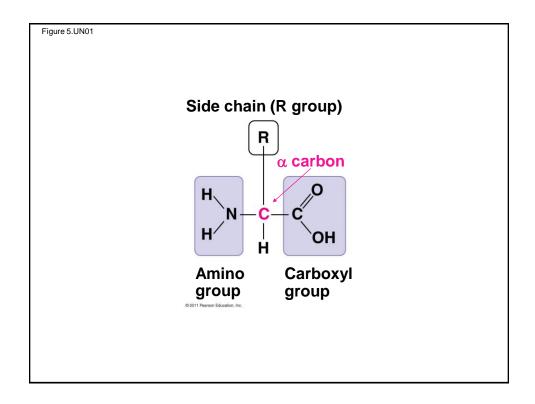
- Polypeptides are polymers built from the same set of 20 amino acids
- A protein consists of one or more polypeptides

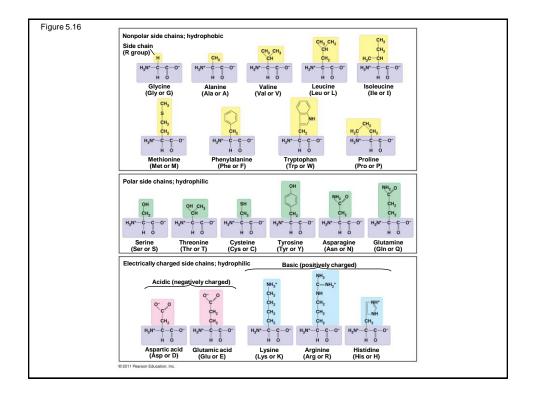
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Amino Acid Monomers

- Amino acids are organic molecules with carboxyl and amino groups
- Amino acids differ in their properties due to differing side chains, called R groups

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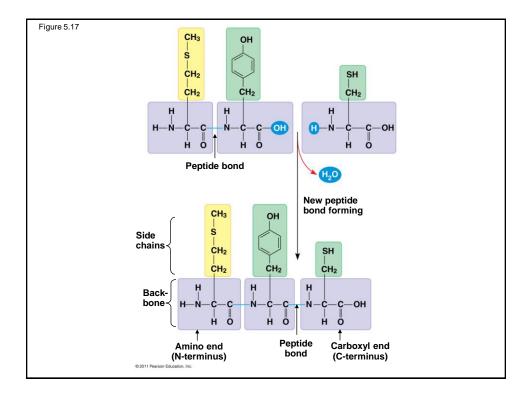




Amino Acid Polymers

- Amino acids are linked by peptide bonds
- A polypeptide is a polymer of amino acids
- Polypeptides range in length from a few to more than a thousand monomers
- Each polypeptide has a unique linear sequence of amino acids

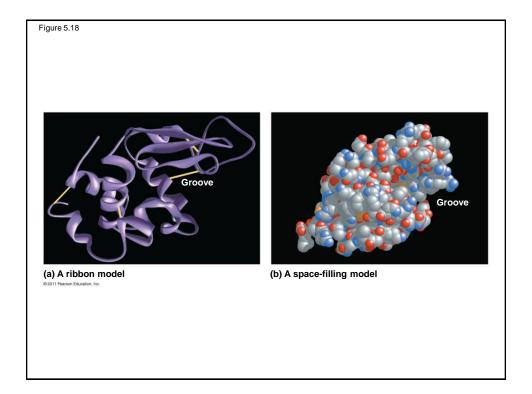
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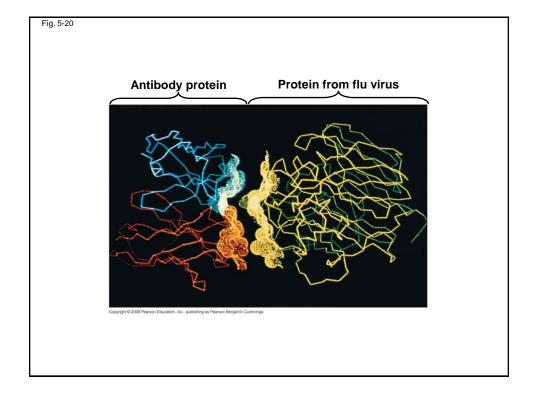
Protein Structure and Function

 A functional protein consists of one or more polypeptides twisted, folded, and coiled into a unique shape

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- The <u>sequence</u> of amino acids determines a protein's three-dimensional structure
- A protein's structure determines its function



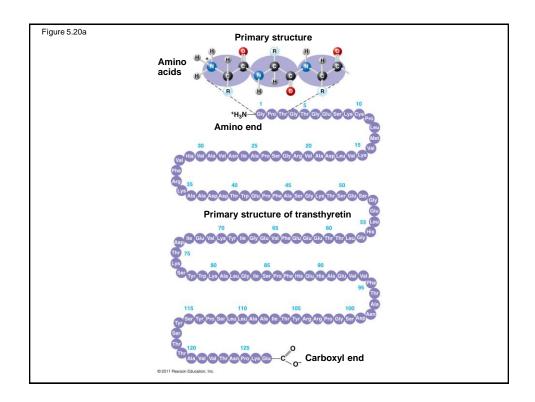
Four Levels of Protein Structure

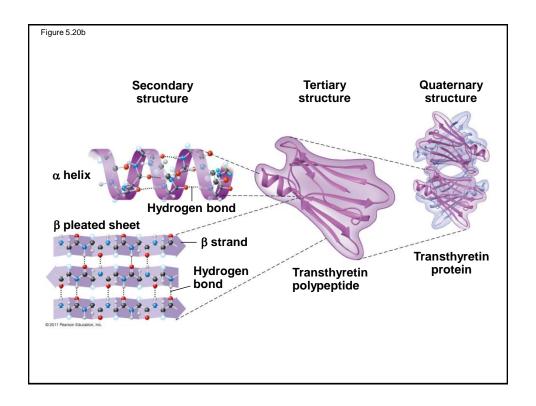
- The primary structure of a protein is its unique sequence of amino acids
- Secondary structure, found in most proteins, consists of coils and folds in the polypeptide chain
- **Tertiary structure** is determined by interactions among various side chains (R groups)
- **Quaternary structure** results when a protein consists of multiple polypeptide chains



PLAY Animation: Protein Structure Introduction

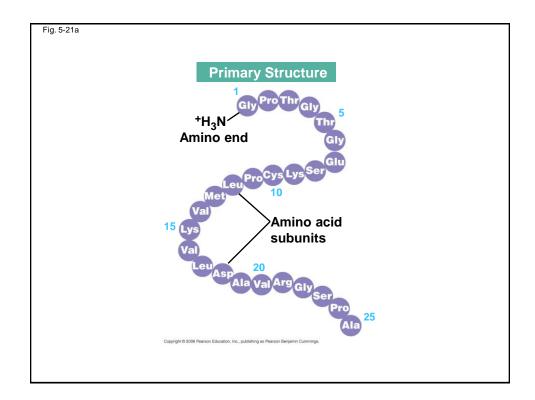
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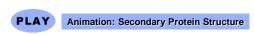


- Primary structure, the sequence of amino acids in a protein, is like the order of letters in a long word
- Primary structure is <u>determined</u> by <u>inherited</u> genetic information

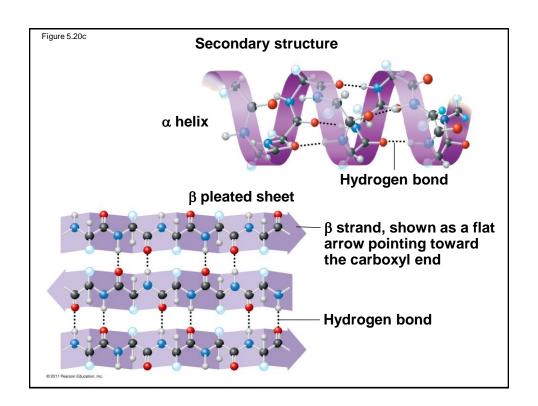


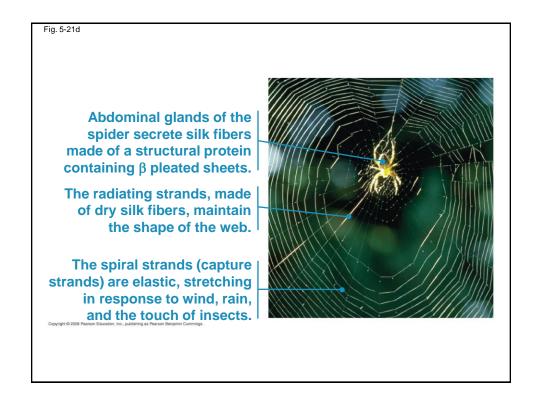


- The coils and folds of <u>secondary structure</u> result from <u>hydrogen bonds</u> between repeating constituents of the <u>polypeptide</u> <u>backbone</u>
- Typical secondary structures are a coil called an <u>α helix</u> and a folded structure called a <u>β</u>
 pleated sheet



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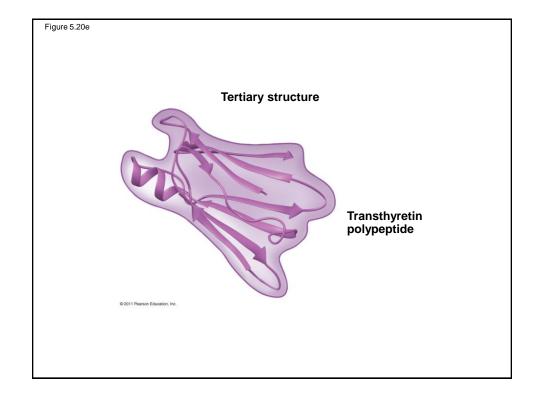


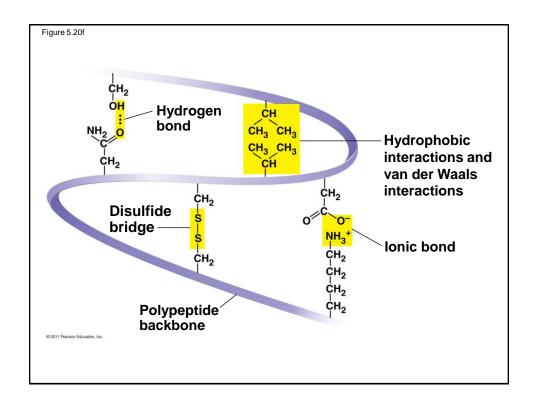
- Tertiary structure is determined by interactions between R groups, rather than interactions between backbone constituents
- These interactions between R groups include hydrogen bonds, ionic bonds, hydrophobic interactions, and van der Waals interactions
- Strong covalent bonds called disulfide bridges may reinforce the protein's structure

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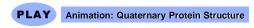
Animation: Tertiary Protein Structure

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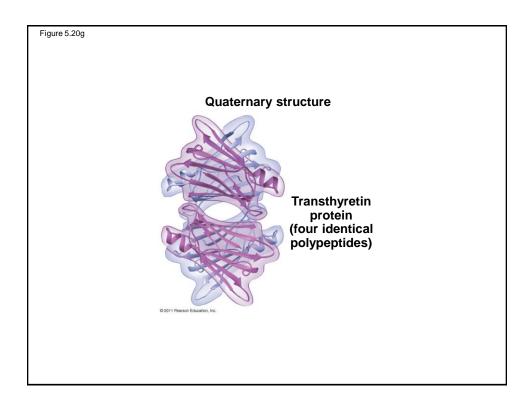


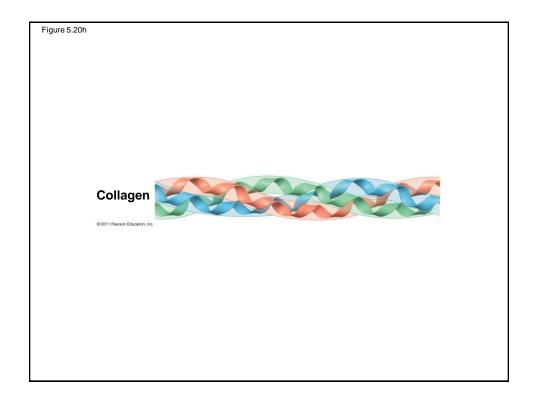


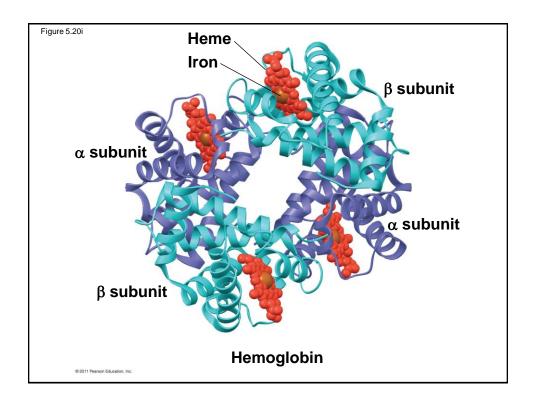
- Quaternary structure results when two or more polypeptide chains form one macromolecule
- Collagen is a <u>fibrous protein</u> consisting of three polypeptides coiled like a rope
- Hemoglobin is a globular protein consisting of four polypeptides: two alpha and two beta chains



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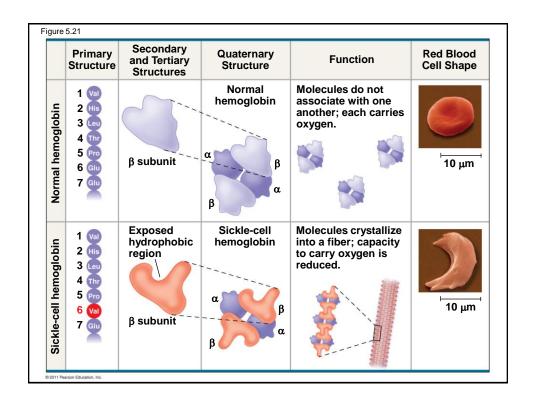


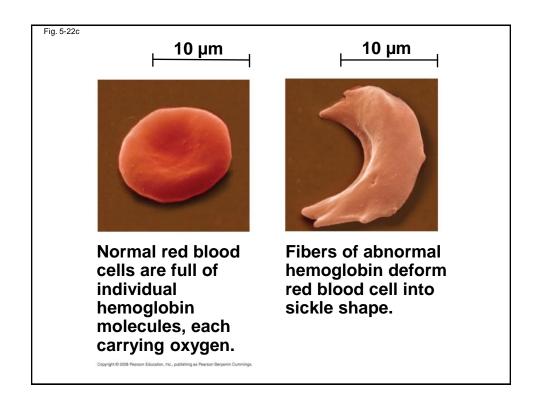


Sickle-Cell Disease: A Change in Primary Structure

- A slight change in primary structure can affect a protein's structure and ability to function
- Sickle-cell disease, an inherited blood disorder, results from a single amino acid substitution in the protein hemoglobin

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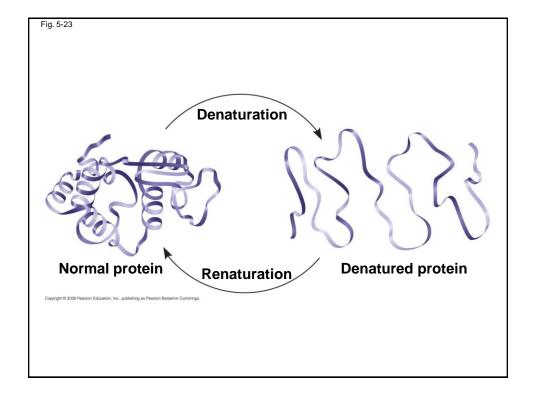




What Determines Protein Structure?

- In addition to primary structure, physical and chemical conditions can affect structure
- Alterations in pH, salt concentration, temperature, or other environmental factors can cause a protein to unravel
- This loss of a protein's native structure is called denaturation
- A denatured protein is biologically inactive

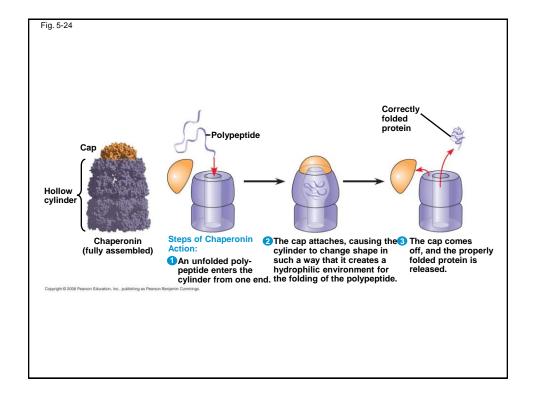
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Protein Folding in the Cell

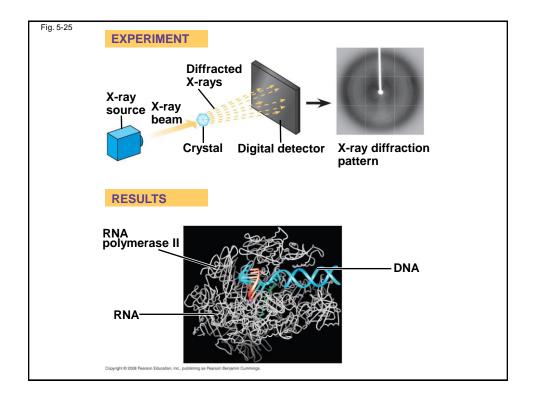
- It is hard to predict a protein's structure from its primary structure
- Most proteins probably go through several states on their way to a stable structure
- Chaperonins are protein molecules that assist the proper folding of other proteins

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- Scientists use X-ray crystallography to determine a protein's structure
- Another method is nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy, which does not require protein crystallization
- Bioinformatics uses computer programs to predict protein structure from amino acid sequences

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Concept 5.5: Nucleic acids store and transmit hereditary information

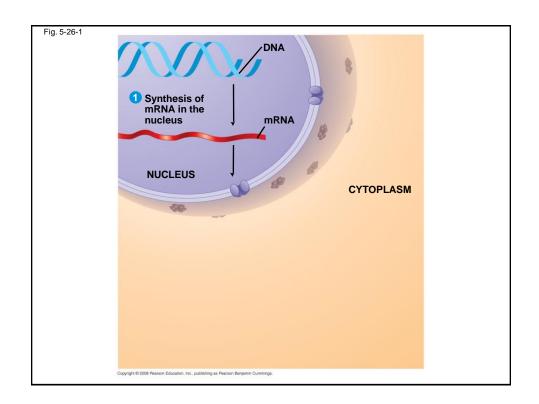
- The amino acid sequence of a polypeptide is programmed by a unit of inheritance called a gene
- Genes are made of DNA, a nucleic acid

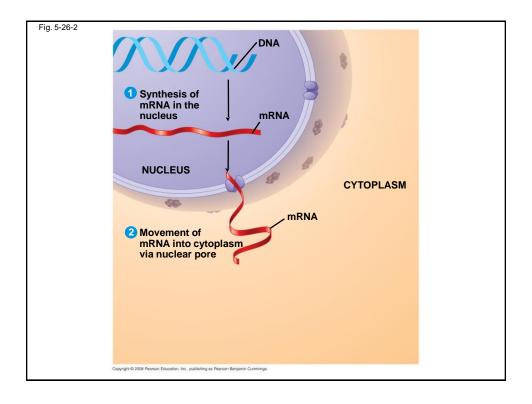
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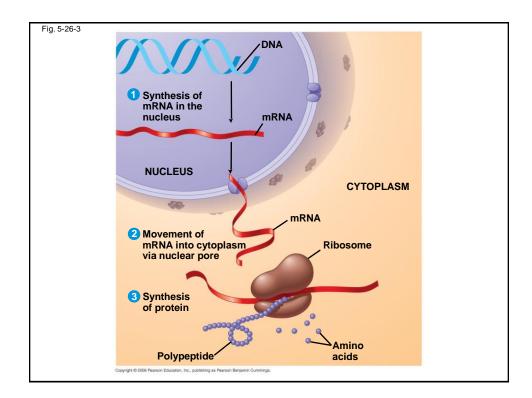
The Roles of Nucleic Acids

- There are two types of nucleic acids:
 - Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)
 - Ribonucleic acid (RNA)
- DNA provides directions for its own replication
- DNA directs synthesis of messenger RNA (mRNA) and, through mRNA, controls protein synthesis
- Protein synthesis occurs in ribosomes

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The Structure of Nucleic Acids

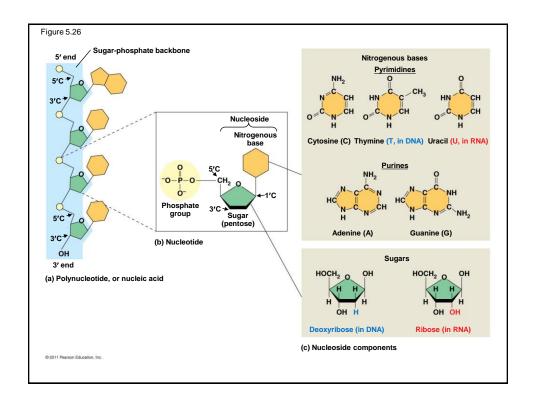
- Nucleic acids are polymers called polynucleotides
- Each polynucleotide is made of monomers called nucleotides
- <u>Each nucleotide consists</u> of: a <u>nitrogenous</u>
 <u>base</u>, a <u>pentose sugar</u>, and a <u>phosphate group</u>
- The portion of a nucleotide without the phosphate group is called a *nucleoside*

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Nucleotide Monomers

- Nucleoside = nitrogenous base + sugar
- There are two families of nitrogenous bases:
 - Pyrimidines (cytosine, thymine, and uracil)
 have a <u>single six-membered ring</u>
 - Purines (adenine and guanine) have a <u>six-</u>
 membered ring fused to a five-membered ring
- In DNA, the sugar is deoxyribose; in RNA, the sugar is ribose
- Nucleotide = nucleoside + phosphate group

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Nucleotide Polymers

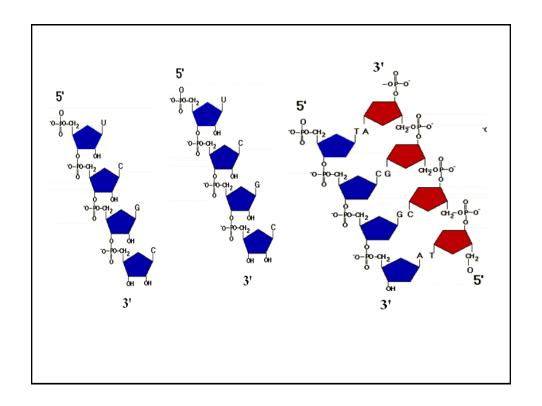
- Nucleotide polymers are linked together to build a polynucleotide
- Adjacent nucleotides are joined by <u>covalent</u>
 <u>bonds</u> that form <u>between the -OH group</u> on the
 3' carbon of one nucleotide and the <u>phosphate</u>
 on the 5' carbon on the next
- These links create a backbone of sugarphosphate units with nitrogenous bases as appendages
- The sequence of bases along a DNA or mRNA polymer is unique for each gene

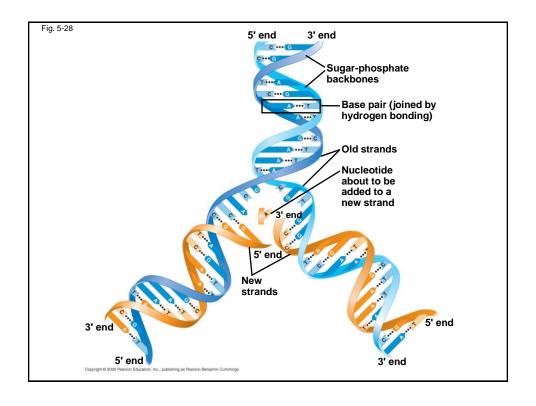
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The DNA Double Helix

- A DNA molecule has two polynucleotides spiraling around an imaginary axis, forming a double helix
- In the DNA double helix, the two backbones run in opposite 5' → 3' directions from each other, an arrangement referred to as antiparallel
- The nitrogenous bases in DNA pair up and form hydrogen bonds: adenine (A) always with thymine (T), and guanine (G) always with cytosine (C)

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DNA and Proteins as Tape Measures of Evolution

- The linear sequences of nucleotides in DNA molecules are passed from parents to offspring
- Two closely related species are more similar in DNA than are more distantly related species
- Molecular biology can be used to assess evolutionary kinship

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| Large Biological Molecules | Components | Examples | Functions |
|--|--|--|---|
| Carbohydrates serve as fuel and building material | CH ₂ OH H OH | Monosaccharides: glucose, fructose | Fuel; carbon sources that can be con- verted to other molecules or combined into polymers |
| | | Disaccharides: lactose, sucrose | |
| | | Polysaccharides: • Cellulose (plants) • Starch (plants) • Glycogen (animals) • Chitin (animals and fungi) | Strengthens plant cell walls Stores glucose for energy Stores glucose for energy Strengthens exoskeletons and fungal cell walls |
| CONCEPT, 5,3 Lipids are a diverse group of hydrophobic molecules | Glycerol 3 fatty acids | Triacylglycerols (fats or oils): glycerol + 3 fatty acids | Important energy source |
| | Head with P 2 fatty acids | Phospholipids: phosphate group + 2 fatty acids | Lipid bilayers of membranes Hydrophobic tails Hydrophilic heads |
| | Steroid backbone | Steroids: four fused rings with attached chemical groups | Component of cell membranes (cholesterol) Signaling molecules that travel through the body (hormones) |
| Proteins include a diversity of structures, resulting in a wide range of functions | HN C OH Amino acid monomer (20 types) | Enzymes Structural proteins Storage proteins Transport proteins Hormones Receptor proteins Motor proteins Defensive proteins | Catalyze chemical reactions Provide structural support Store amino acids Transport substances Coordinate organismal responses Receive signals from outside cell Function in cell movement Protect against disease |
| Nucleic acids store, transmit, and help express hereditary information | Nitrogenous base Phosphate group P CH2 0 | Sugar = deoxyribose Nitrogenous bases = C, G, A, T Usually double-stranded | Stores hereditary information |
| | Sugar Nucleotide monomer | Sugar = ribose Nitrogenous bases = C, G, A, U Usually single-stranded | Various functions during gene expression, including carrying instructions from DNA to ribosomes |

