

# A SHORT HISTORY OF DNA



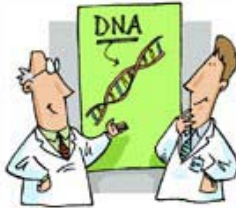
**8000 BC**  
Long before the discovery of DNA, early farmers were using selective breeding to improve their crops and livestock. They kept back the best seed and offspring from their farms to begin the next generation.

**1859**  
Charles Darwin publishes his theory of evolution through natural selection. It was only long after his death that his ideas finally became widely accepted.



**1863**  
Gregor Mendel, a monk in Austria, first documents hereditary traits in garden peas.

**1953**  
James Watson and Francis Crick accurately describe the molecular structure of DNA as a double helix.

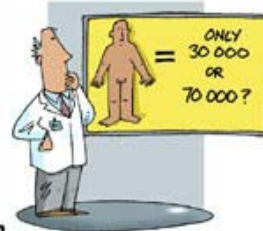
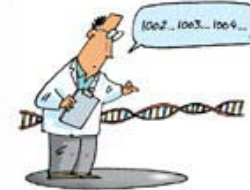


**1966**  
The genetic code is revealed. It is established that a sequence of three nucleotide bases corresponds to each of 20 amino acids in the production of proteins. Since then a further two amino acids have been discovered.



**1972**  
The DNA composition of humans is found to be 99% similar to chimpanzees and gorillas.

**1990**  
The Human Genome Project is launched - an international collaborative effort to sequence the entire human genome.



**2002**  
The Human Genome Project is completed - revealing the location of around 30 000 human genes. This number, however, is currently being debated by scientists who suggest the number is closer to 70 000.

