

## Biotechnology

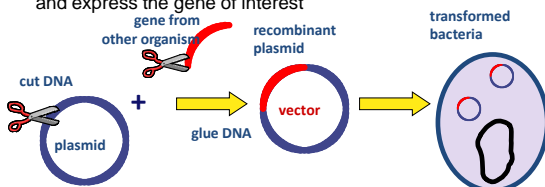
### Cloning

- What is it?
  - The production of multiple copies of a single gene (*gene cloning*)
- How is it used?
  - For basic research on genes and their protein products
  - To make a protein product (insulin, human growth hormone)



### Transformation

- What is it?
  - The ability of bacteria to pick up naked foreign DNA from the environment
- How is it used?
  - We can engineer plasmids which bacteria will take up and express the gene of interest



# Restriction Enzymes



- What is it?
  - evolved in bacteria to cut up foreign DNA for protection against viruses other bacteria
- How is it used?
  - cut DNA at specific sequences called **restriction sites** which are symmetrical palindromes
  - produces protruding ends called **sticky ends** which will bind to any complementary DNA
  - [video](#)

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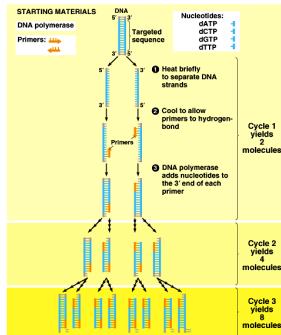
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# Polymerase Chain Reaction



- What is it?
  - method for making many, many copies of a specific segment of DNA

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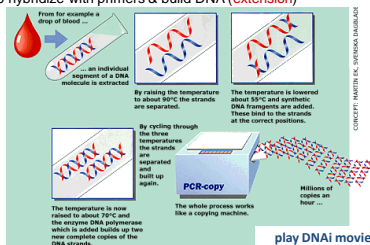
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# Polymerase Chain Reaction

- How is it used?
  - in tube: DNA, DNA polymerase enzyme, primer, nucleotides
  - **denature DNA**: heat (90°C) DNA to separate strands
  - **anneal DNA**: cool to hybridize with primers & build DNA (**extension**)




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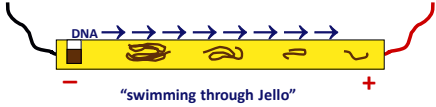
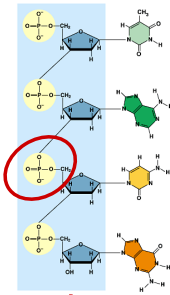
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# Gel electrophoresis

- What is it?
  - A method of separating DNA in a gelatin-like material using an electrical field



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# Gel electrophoresis

- How is it used?
  - size of DNA fragment affects how far it travels
    - small pieces travel farther
    - large pieces travel slower & lag behind



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# Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphisms (RFLPs)



2005-2006

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# What is a virus? Is it alive?

- DNA or RNA enclosed in a protein coat
- Viruses are not cells
- Extremely tiny
  - electron microscope size
  - smaller than ribosomes
  - ~20–50 nm



**1<sup>st</sup> discovered in plants (1800s)**

- tobacco mosaic virus
- couldn't filter out
- couldn't reproduce on media like bacteria




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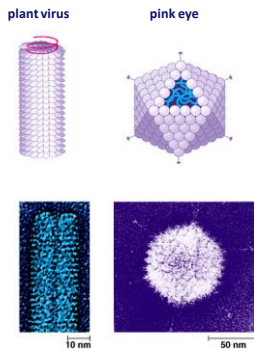
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## Variation in viruses

- Parasites
  - ◆ lack enzymes for metabolism
  - ◆ lack ribosomes for protein synthesis
  - ◆ need host "machinery"




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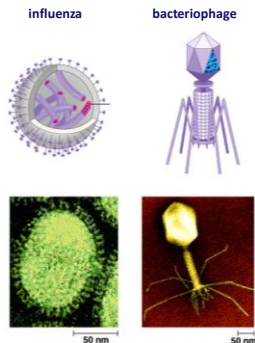
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## Variation in viruses

- A package of genes in transit from one host cell to another



***"A piece of bad news wrapped in protein"***  
– Peter Medawar

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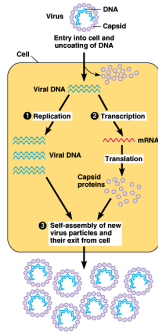
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## Generalized viral lifecycle

- Entry
  - virus DNA/RNA enters host cell
- Assimilation
  - viral DNA/RNA takes over host
  - reprograms host cell to copy viral nucleic acid & build viral proteins
- Self assembly
  - nucleic acid molecules & capsomeres then self-assemble into viral particles
  - exit cell




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## Viral hosts

- Host range
  - most types of virus can infect & parasitize only a limited range of host cells
    - identify host cells via "lock & key" fit
    - between proteins on viral coat & receptors on host cell surface
  - broad host range
    - rabies = can infect all mammals
  - narrow host range
    - human cold virus = only cells lining upper respiratory tract of humans
    - HIV = binds only to specific white blood cells

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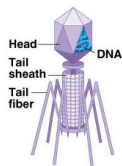
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## Bacteriophages

- Viruses that infect bacteria
  - ex. phages that infect *E. coli*
  - lambda phage
- 20-sided capsid head encloses DNA
- protein tail attaches phage to host & injects phage DNA inside



(d) Bacteriophage T4

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## Defense against viruses

- Bacteria have defenses against phages
  - bacterial mutants with receptors that are no longer recognized by a phage
    - natural selection favors these mutants
  - bacteria produce **restriction enzymes**
    - recognize & cut up foreign DNA
- It's an escalating war!
  - natural selection favors phage mutants resistant to bacterial defenses

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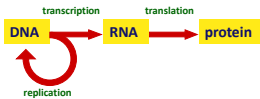
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## RNA viruses

- Retroviruses
  - have to copy viral RNA into host DNA
    - enzyme = **reverse transcriptase**
    - RNA → DNA → mRNA
  - host's RNA polymerase now transcribes viral DNA into viral mRNA
    - mRNA codes for viral components
    - host's ribosomes produce new viral proteins




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