

# Djibouti



Djibouti is a city in northeastern Africa on the Gulf of Aden, a part of the Indian Ocean. Djibouti is the capital of a small country that is also named Djibouti. Most of the country's people live in Djibouti city.

Djibouti city has a mixture of old and modern buildings in African and French styles. The economy of the city depends on trade through its port. Transporting goods on a railway to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, also brings money to the city.

Djibouti city began as a port in about 1888. In that year the French built a station for fueling ships in the harbor. A city soon rose up. The colony called French Somaliland grew around the city. In 1892 Djibouti city became the capital of the colony.

Djibouti became an independent country in 1977. Djibouti city was its capital. The city grew rapidly in the late 20th century. Many people went there to escape droughts and wars in nearby countries.

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Djibouti

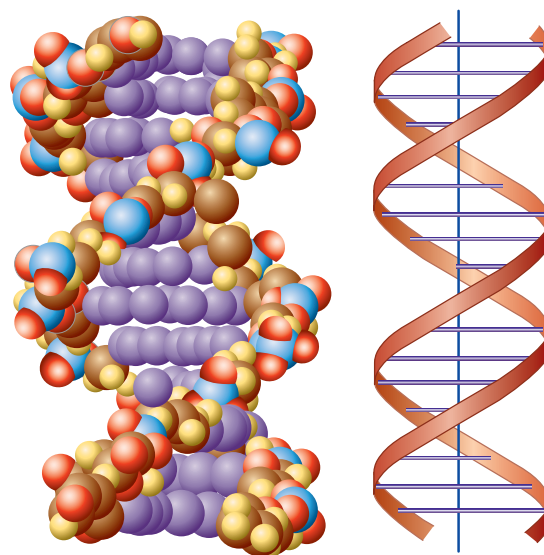
# DNA

DNA is the material that carries all the information about how a living thing will look and function. For instance, DNA in humans determines such things as what color the eyes are and how the lungs work. Each piece of information is carried on a different section of the DNA. These sections are called genes.

DNA is short for deoxyribonucleic acid. It is in every cell of every living thing. DNA is found in structures of the cell called chromosomes. Chromosomes are tiny. Scientists need to use very powerful microscopes to see them.

## Functions

When DNA works correctly, it helps keep the body working properly. DNA helps cells to make the substances called proteins, which the cells need to live. DNA also allows living things to reproduce. The genes in DNA pass along traits from parents to children.



Part of a long DNA chain shows the twisted, ladderlike structure.

Sometimes there are mistakes in DNA. These mistakes are called mutations. They can cause unusual features, diseases, and other problems.

## Structure

DNA has a complex structure. It is made of chemical substances that are linked together like a chain. Each piece of DNA has two long strands, or chains. The two strands are joined together. They form a shape like a ladder that has been twisted into a spiral.

Chemicals called phosphates and sugars make up the sides of the ladder. DNA also has chemicals called bases. Each base on one strand is joined to a base on the other strand. The linked bases form the rungs of the ladder.

## Genetic Code

There are four different bases in DNA: adenine, thymine, guanine, and cytosine. These four chemicals are repeated in different orders over and over again in each strand of DNA. Human DNA contains about 3 billion pairs of these bases.

The order in which the bases are arranged is very important. It forms a code that tells cells to make certain kinds of proteins. The differences in these proteins is what makes different living things—such as a cactus, a gerbil, and two different people—different.

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# Dog

The dog is one of the most popular animals in the world. It was one of the first animals to be domesticated, or trained for use by humans. The dog's scientific name is *Canis familiaris*. It is related to the coyote, wolves, foxes, and jackals.

## Where Dogs Live

People around the world keep dogs as pets, guards, or work animals. Some dogs, called feral dogs, do not live with people. These homeless dogs often roam around in groups, called packs. One type of dog, called the dingo, lives in the wild in Australia.

## Physical Features and Breeds

The dog is a mammal with sharp teeth, an excellent sense of smell, and a fine sense of hearing. Each of its four legs ends in a foot, or paw, with five toes. Each toe has a soft pad and a claw. A coat of hair keeps the dog warm. It cools off by panting and hanging its tongue out of its mouth.



Some dogs are purebred. This means that both parents were of the same breed. A dog with parents of different breeds is called a mutt or mongrel.