## **Try It Out**

Do you recognize this model? Feel free to pick it up and turn it around. What do you notice about it?

## What's going on?

Building on last month's exhibit about molecules, **deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)** is a very complex polymer made up of a large number of *macro*molecules called nucleotides. These chains of nucleotides wrap around each other in the familiar "double helix" shape seen in the model. The model shows only a single "revolution," a very small portion of the entire DNA strand.

## What's the big deal?

DNA contains all the instructions for building humans. Each nucleotide contains one of four bases, adenine (A), cytosine (C), guanine (G), or thymine (T). The pattern of these is what gives us our genes and determines our hair color, ear shape, and everything else about us. With half of the pattern coming from each of our parents, no two of us are alike!



The four DNA nucleobases (Image: blausen.com)

## Wonder While You Walk...

The human genome contains approximately 3,200,000,000 nucleotides, and this model shows 24. How much longer would a full DNA strand model be?



What will you discover tomorrow? littlefreemuseum.org We host rotating exhibits on science and technology. Ideas or suggestions? Let us know.

facebook.com/littlefreemuseum @LFMuseum info@littlefreemuseum.org Like us on Facebook Follow us on Twitter Send us an email