

# Genes and DNA

*The building blocks of life*

**Genes** are a set of instructions that give all living organisms the information they need to form and grow. They influence what we look like on the outside and how we work on the inside. Genes are made of a chemical called **DNA** (*deoxyribonucleic acid*).

**DNA molecules** are located inside a cell nucleus, tightly wrapped around spool-like proteins known as *chromosomes*. DNA carries information and can make copies of itself. It is made of four *nucleotides*, or chemical bases, called adenine (A), thymine (T), guanine (G) and cytosine (C).

