

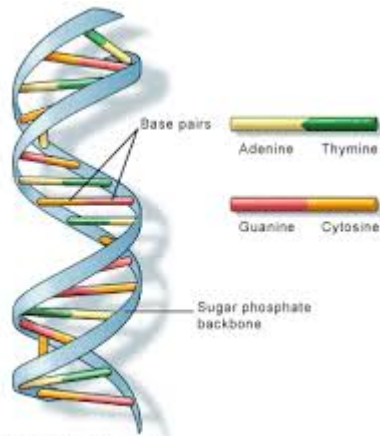
The human genome

On May 21, 1965, President John F. Kennedy made this proposal to Congress: *“I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the Earth.”* On October, 1990, a similar proposal was made relative to exploring the inner world of human space: the mapping of the 46 genes that make you uniquely YOU! Thirteen years later this headline appeared in the New York Times:

BETHESDA, Md., April 14—“The human genome is complete,” leaders of a public consortium of academic centers said today. “We have before us the instruction set that carries each of us from the one-cell egg through adulthood to the grave.”

***Dr. Francis Collins, director of the genome center at the National Institutes of Health,** said the Human Genome Project had completed the task it set itself and was today dissolved. The human genome “is **a history book**—a narrative of the journey of our species through time. It’s **a shop manual**, with an incredibly detailed blueprint for building every human cell. And it’s **a transformative textbook** of medicine, with insights that will give health care providers immense new powers to treat, prevent and cure disease.”*

Here are some of the astonishing facts about YOU:



- U.S. National Library of Medicine There are 100 trillion (100,000,000,000,000) cells in your body.
- There are three billion (3,000,000,000) base pairs in the DNA code within each cell.
- Your genome is made of 3,200 million base pairs, split into 46 chromosomes.
- If the DNA in your body was put end to end, it would reach to the sun and back over 600 times.
- It would take a person typing 60 words per minute, eight hours a day, around 50 years to type your genome.

Listen to David's appraisal of the Maker's work—*You shaped me, inside and out. I will offer You my grateful heart, for **I am Your unique creation, filled with wonder and awe.** You have approached even **the smallest details** with excellence. **Your thoughts and plans** are treasures to me, O God! How grand in scope! How many in number! If I could count each one of them, they would be more than all the grains of sand on earth. **Their number is inconceivable!***