

I Spy DNA

All living things, have their own unique genome—their own set of genetic material that contains the instructions they need to function and reproduce. Creatures from tiny microbes, to humans, to blue whales and giant redwood trees, all have genomes made of DNA. DNA is composed of four basic building blocks called nucleotides, linked together to form two long strands that are twisted around one another in the shape of a helix. The order, or sequence, of the four types of nucleotides spell out the information a living thing needs to grow, a lot like the way the order of dashes and dots carry information in Morse code.

DNA may sound mysterious or scary, because we can't usually see it without special equipment. But it's all around us all the time, helping nature to grow and renew itself! Anything that is alive, or was once alive, or was a part of a living thing, has some DNA in it. It takes a strong force, like extreme heat or harsh chemicals, to completely destroy DNA.

Using this picture, how many objects can you spot that probably have some DNA in them?

List them below:

For extra I Spy Challenges:

How many shapes you can spy? List them here:

How many pencils can you spy?

How many safety pins can you spy?

How many binder clips can you spy?

How many red beads can you spy?

How many blue beads can you spy?

How many different types of animals can you spy?

We'd love to hear your answers and see you working on our activities. Take a photo and share it with us if you like. [Tweet](#) at us, [Gram](#) it our way, or put it on [Facebook](#)! Tag us with #couchreach (that's outreach from your couch)!

[\(Missed yesterday's activity? Check out our archive\)](#)



I Spy Key

How many objects can you spot that probably have some DNA in them?

Orange, Apple, Lime, Bone, Victoriana aero plant, Lithops plant, Feather...

For extra I Spy Challenges:

How many shapes you can spy? List them here:

Circle, Trapezoid, Square, Polygon, Oval

How many pencils can you spy?

10

How many safety pins can you spy?

19

How many binder clips can you spy?

8

How many red beads can you spy?

105

How many blue beads can you spy?

55

How many different types of animals can you spy?

Horse, rhinoceros, cow, hippopotamus, tiger, bull