**teachers guide**

**Proteins 4:**

**Making proteins**

# Components

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|  | NAME | DESCRIPTION | AUDIENCE |
|  | *Making proteins*teachers guide | This guide shows how to use a learning object to build students’ understanding of protein synthesis. | teachers |
|  | *How are proteins made?*learning object | This interactive learning object explains how proteins are made. It leads students through an animation about protein synthesis and an activity where students ‘build’ part of the protein insulin. | students |
|  | *Protein synthesis*worksheet | Students use this worksheet as they work through the learning object, *How are proteins made?* | students |
|  | *Protein synthesis summary*fact sheet | This fact sheet summarises two stages of protein synthesis: transcription and translation. | students |

Purpose

Students watch an animation of protein synthesis. They are guided through the processes of transcription and translation using a section of the insulin gene.

# Activity summary

Outcomes

Students understand that:

* a strand of DNA is transcribed to make mRNA, which is translated to form a strand of amino acids;
* nucleotide order on an mRNA strand is determined by nucleotide order of a strand of DNA;
* nucleotides are read in groups of three, called a codon; and
* the order of amino acids in a strand is determined by the order of nucleotides on an mRNA strand.

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| ACTIVITY | POSSIBLE STRATEGY |
| Students watch an animation at the start of the learning object, *How are proteins made?* to introduce cellular processes of transcription and translation. | whole class, individually or in pairs |
| Students work through the remainder of the interactive learning object, *How are proteins made?* to understand and practice building proteins.The fact sheet, *Protein synthesis*, summarises key concepts presented in the learning object. | individually or in pairs |
| Students answer questions in the worksheet, *Protein synthesis*. | individually |

# Technical requirements

The learning object requires Adobe Flash Player version 8 or later (this is a free download from [www.](http://www/) adobe.com). It can be placed on a web or file-server and run either locally or remotely in a web browser. The teachers guide, worksheet and data sheet require Adobe Reader (version 5 or later), which is a free download from [www.adobe.com.](http://www.adobe.com/) The worksheet is also available in Microsoft Word format.

# Acknowledgements

**learning object, *How are proteins made?***

Image of insulin: Timofeev, V.I., Chuprov-Netochin, R.N., Samigina, V.R., Bezulglov, V.V., Miroshnikov, K. A. & Kranova,

I.P. (2010). X-ray investigation of gene-engineered human insulin crystallized from a solution containing polysialic acid. *Acta Crystallogr., Sect. F 66*, 259-263, created with Jmol: an open-source Java viewer for chemical structures in 3D (jmol. sourceforge.net).

Image of insulin hexamer: Yonemoto, I., (2006). Insulin Hexamer. Modified image from Chang, X., Jorgensen, A. M., Bardrum, P. & Led, J.J. (1997) Solution structures of the R6 human insulin hexamer. *Biochemistry 36*, 9409-9422, created with Jmol: an open-source Java viewer for chemical structures in 3D (jmol.sourceforge.net).

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# Associated SPICE resources

*Proteins 4: Making proteins* may be used in conjunction with related SPICE resources to teach the topic of proteins.

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| DESCRIPTION | LEARNING PURPOSE |
| *Proteins (overview)*This learning pathway shows how a number of SPICE resources can be combined to teach the topic of proteins. |  |
| *Proteins 1: The importance of proteins*A video highlights the essential role played by proteins in living organisms. | **Engage** |
| *Proteins 2: Looking at proteins*Students complete a practical activity to isolate and visualise proteins in tissue samples, using gel electrophoresis. | **Explore** |
| *Proteins 3: Protein molecules*Students work through an interactive learning object that explains the molecular structure of proteins. | **Explain** |
| *Proteins 4: Making proteins*Students work through an interactive learning object that explains how proteins are made by living organisms. A fact sheet summarises the main stages of transcription and translation. | **Explain** |
| *Proteins 5: Defective proteins*What happens when the process of protein formation goes wrong? A case study about Kuro disease explains some implications. | **Elaborate** |