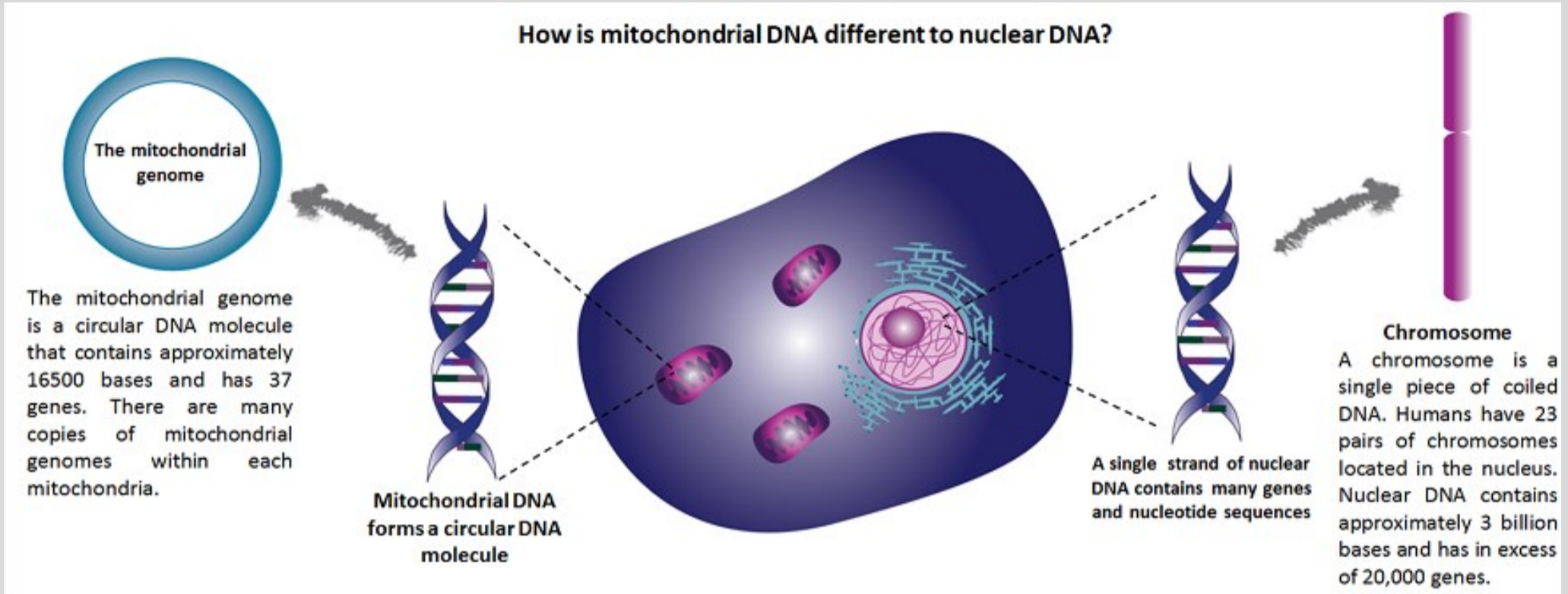


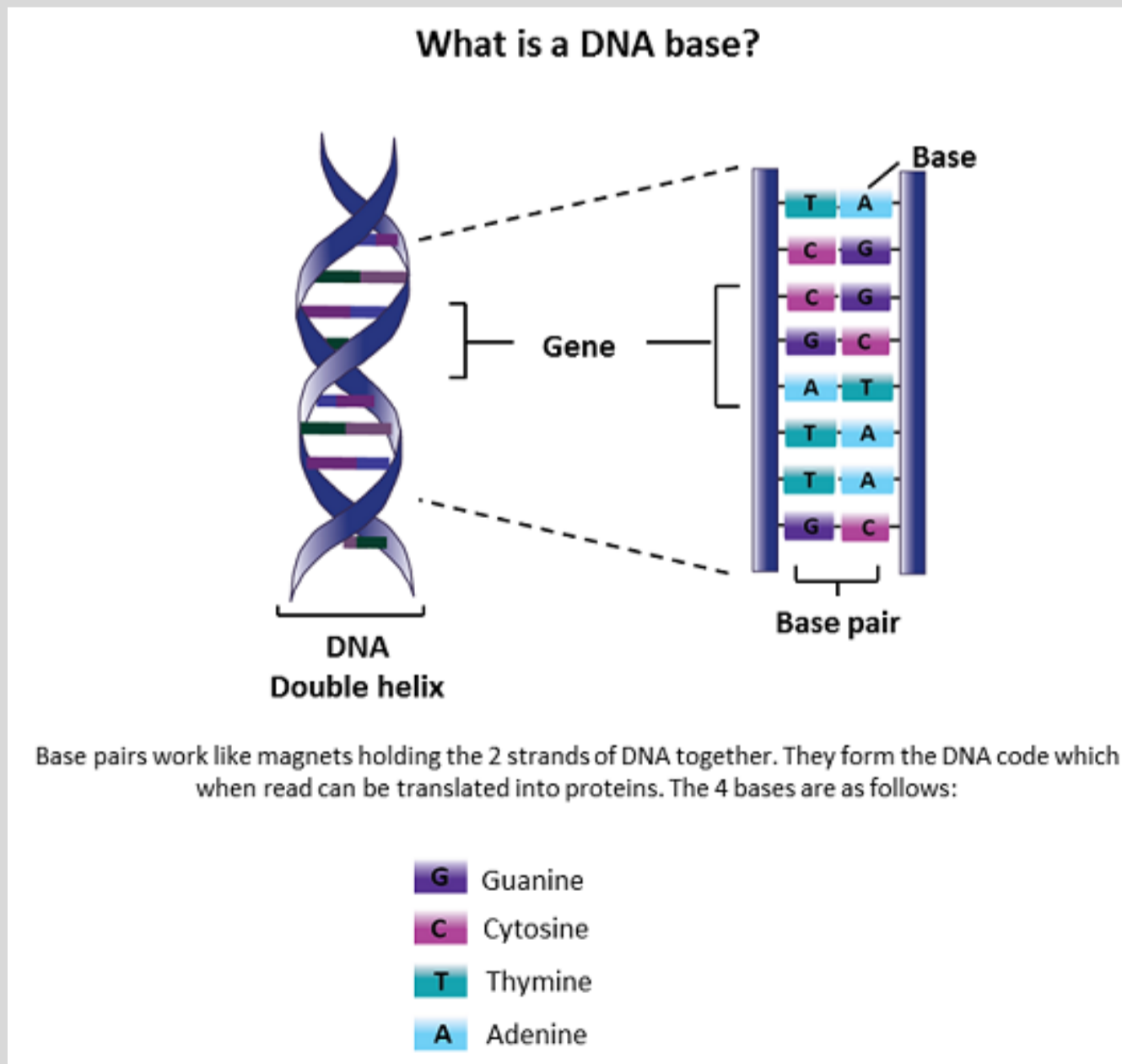
# Mitochondria DNA

## Fact sheet

Mitochondrial DNA is much smaller than the DNA within the chromosomes, it contains only 16,500 base pairs compared to over 3 billion pairs in the nuclear DNA. This is highlighted in the diagram below.



Base pairs work like magnets to hold the two strands of DNA together (shown below), the bases form the 'letters' of the DNA which when read correctly can be translated into the proteins that the cells need to function.



# Mitochondria DNA

## Fact sheet

The DNA within the mitochondria forms a circle, similar to the DNA within bacteria, and different to the DNA within the chromosomes. While each cell contains only two copies of each chromosome each mitochondria contains many copies of the mitochondrial DNA and there are many mitochondria in each cell.

