

*A*S ATOMS are basic to the structure of matter, cells are basic to the structure of living organisms.

Cells grow in many shapes, according to specialized functions. Yet all cells in all forms of life exhibit a uniform structural pattern. All contain the same types of chromosomes and the same types of vitamins and enzymes. Moreover, the genetic material in every chromosome—the hereditary “blueprint” or “recipe” that transmits the unique characteristics of each individual to future generations—is composed of the same four substances called nucleotides. These nucleotides contain complex “lettering” sequences comprising the genetic code. Minute variations in these gene sequences account for the uniqueness of each person or being. Although these sequences differ between species, they always form the same double-helix molecule of DNA in the cells of all living things.

*We are all made of the very same stuff!*

