The Molecular Basis of Inheritance

Overview: Life's Operating Instructions

- In 1953, James Watson and Francis Crick introduced an elegant double-helical model for the structure of deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA
- DNA, the substance of inheritance, is the most celebrated molecule of our time
- Hereditary information is encoded in DNA and reproduced in all cells of the body
- This DNA program directs the development of biochemical, anatomical, physiological, and (to some extent) behavioral traits

Fig. 16-1

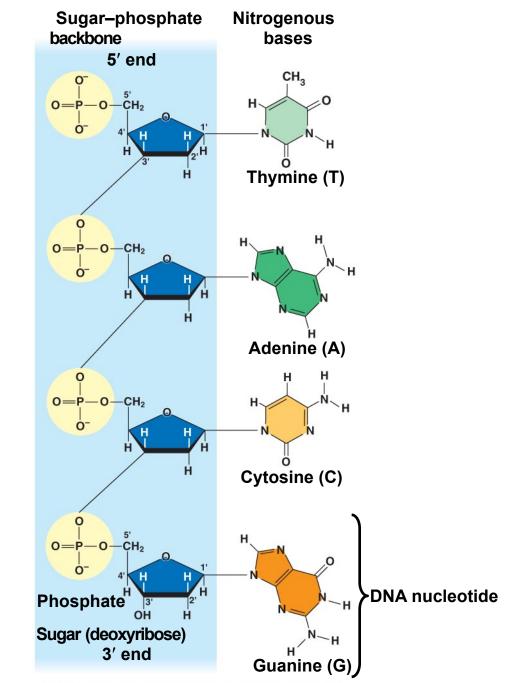


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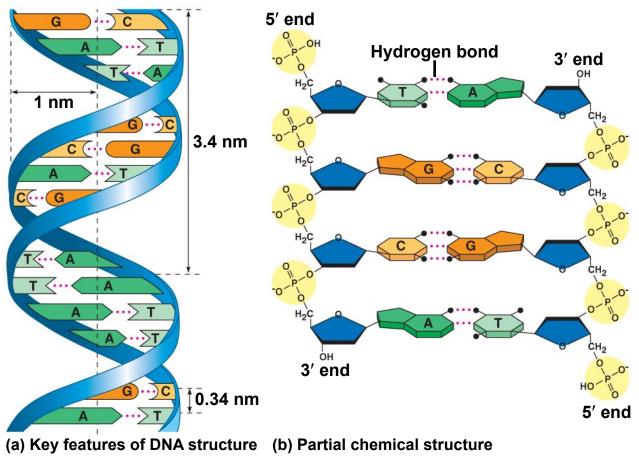
Additional Evidence That DNA Is the Genetic Material

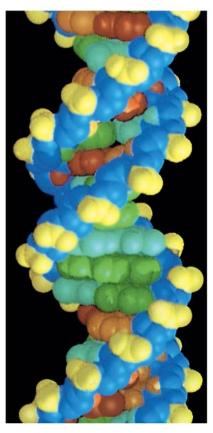
- It was known that DNA is a polymer of nucleotides, each consisting of a nitrogenous base, a sugar, and a phosphate group
- In 1950, Erwin Chargaff reported that DNA composition varies from one species to the next
- Chargaff's rules state that in any species there is an equal number of A and T bases, and an equal number of G and C bases

Fig. 16-5



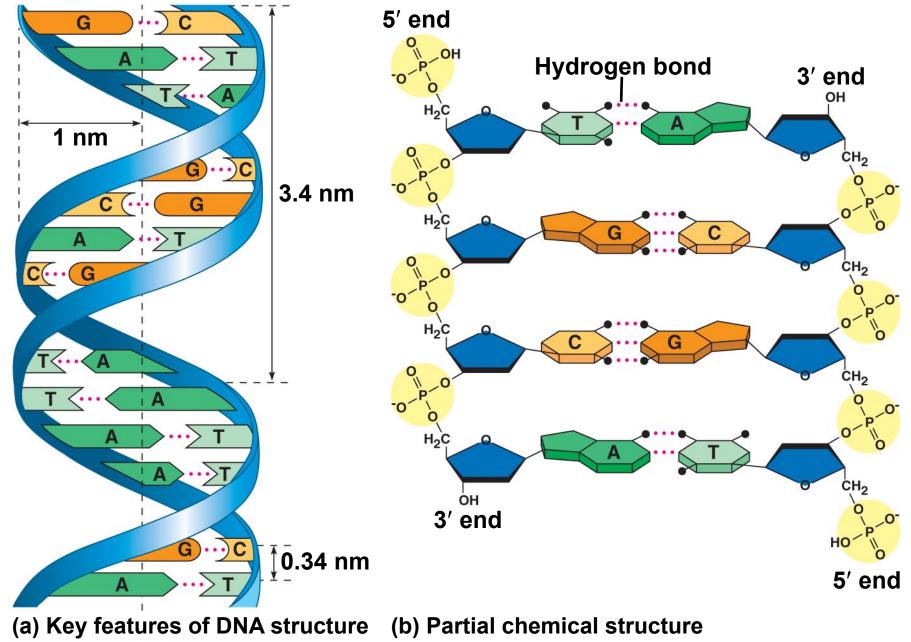
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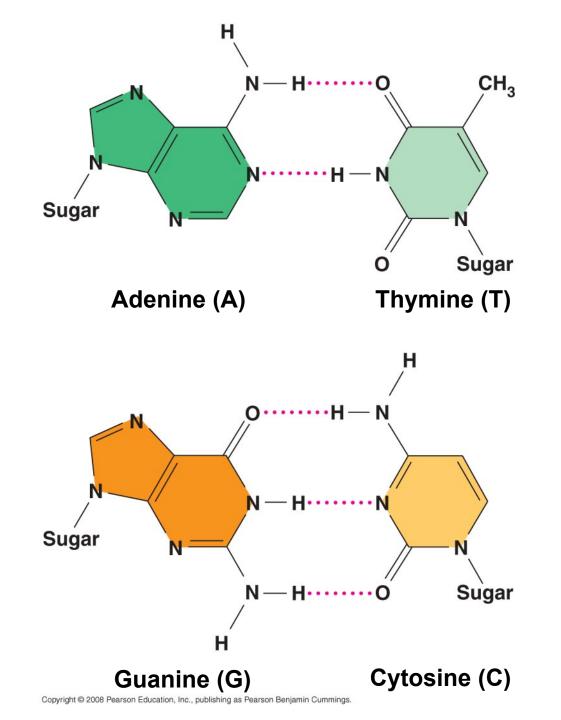




(c) Space-filling model

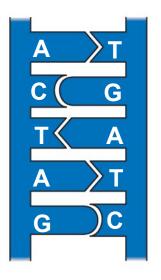
Fig. 16-7a



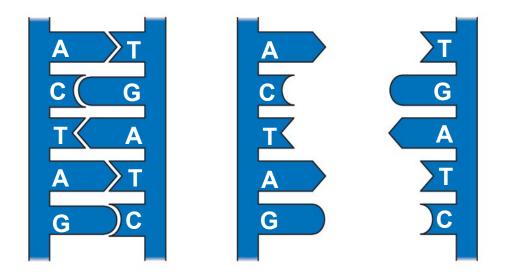


The Basic Principle: Base Pairing to a Template Strand

- Since the two strands of DNA are complementary, each strand acts as a template for building a new strand in replication
- In DNA replication, the parent molecule unwinds, and two new daughter strands are built based on base-pairing rules

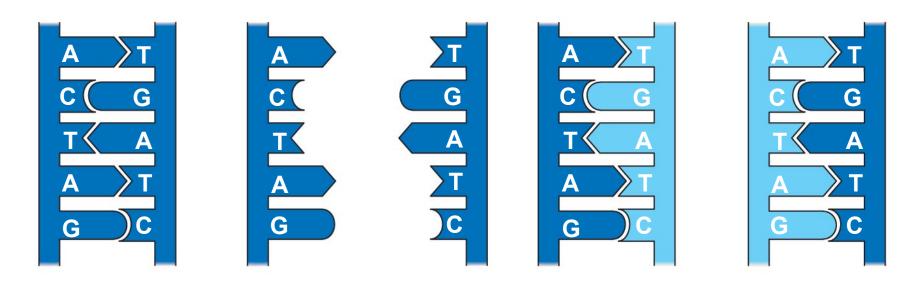


(a) Parent molecule



(a) Parent molecule

(b) Separation of strands



(a) Parent molecule

(b) Separation of strands

(c) "Daughter" DNA molecules, each consisting of one parental strand and one new strand

DNA Replication: A Closer Look

- The copying of DNA is remarkable in its speed and accuracy
- More than a dozen enzymes and other proteins participate in DNA replication

Circular (mitochondria) versus linear DNA (nucleus)

Getting Started

- Replication begins at special sites called origins of replication, where the two DNA strands are separated, opening up a replication "bubble"
- A eukaryotic chromosome may have hundreds or even thousands of origins of replication
- Replication proceeds in both directions from each origin, until the entire molecule is copied

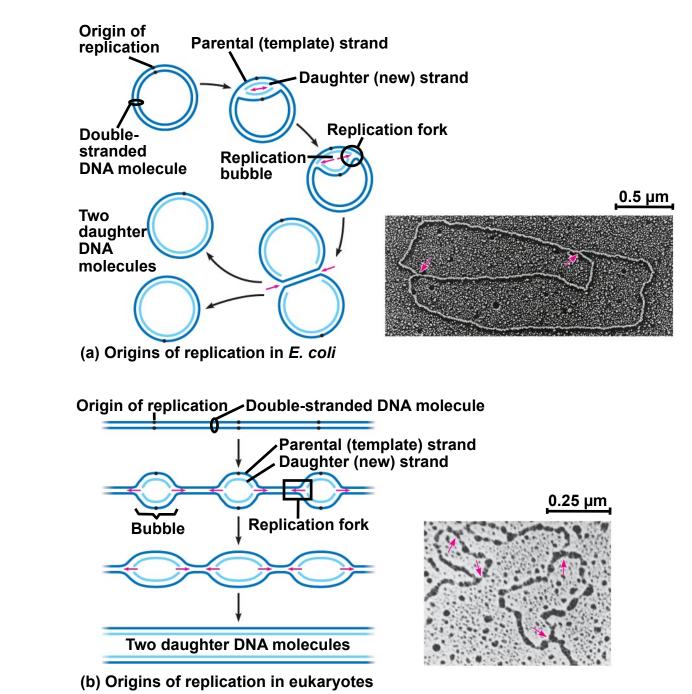
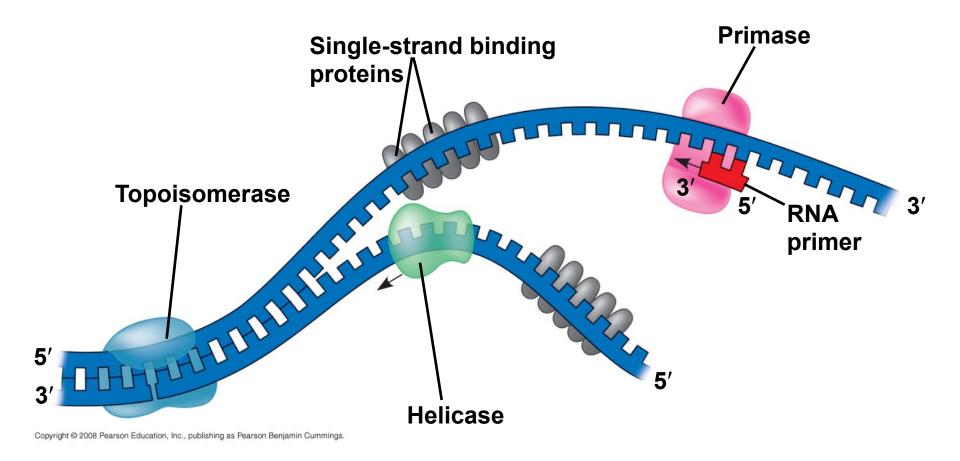


Fig. 16-12

- At the end of each replication bubble is a replication fork, a Y-shaped region where new DNA strands are elongating
- Helicases are enzymes that untwist the double helix at the replication forks
- Single-strand binding protein binds to and stabilizes single-stranded DNA until it can be used as a template
- Topoisomerase corrects "overwinding" ahead of replication forks by breaking, swiveling, and rejoining DNA strands



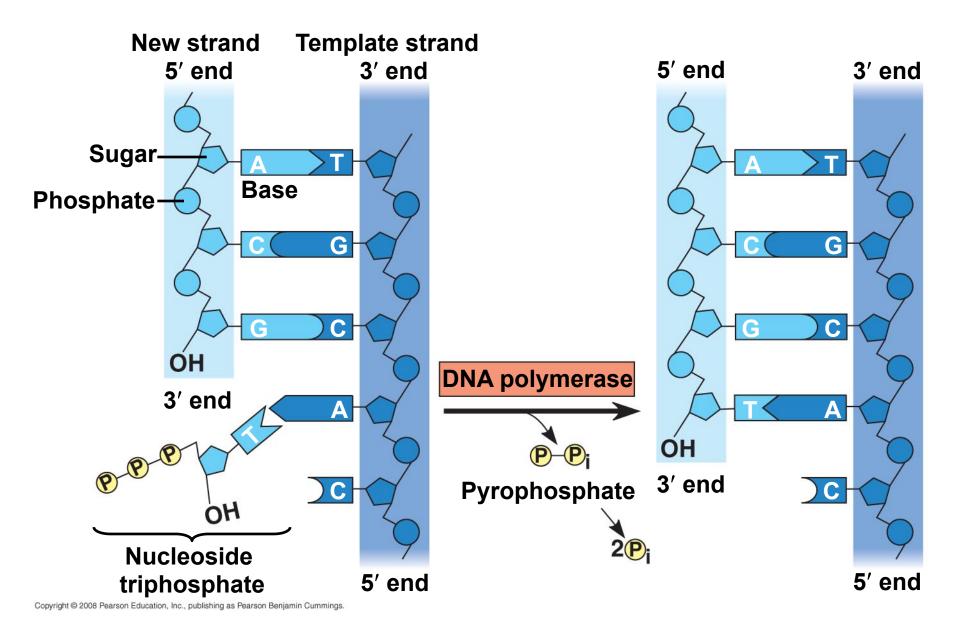
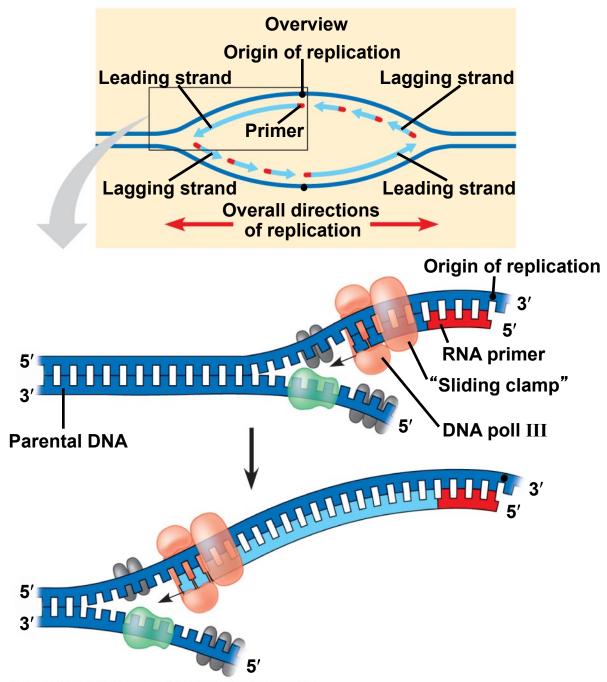
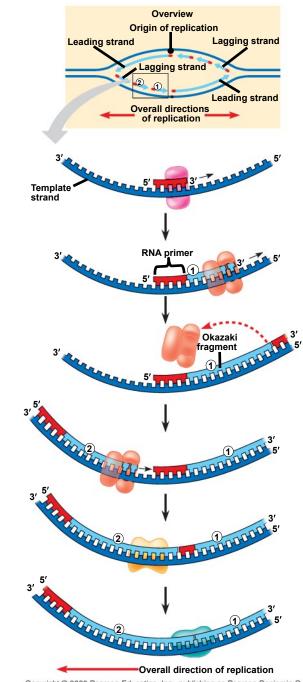


Fig. 16-15



- To elongate the other new strand, called the lagging strand, DNA polymerase must work in the direction away from the replication fork
- The lagging strand is synthesized as a series of segments called Okazaki fragments, which are joined together by DNA ligase

Fig. 16-16



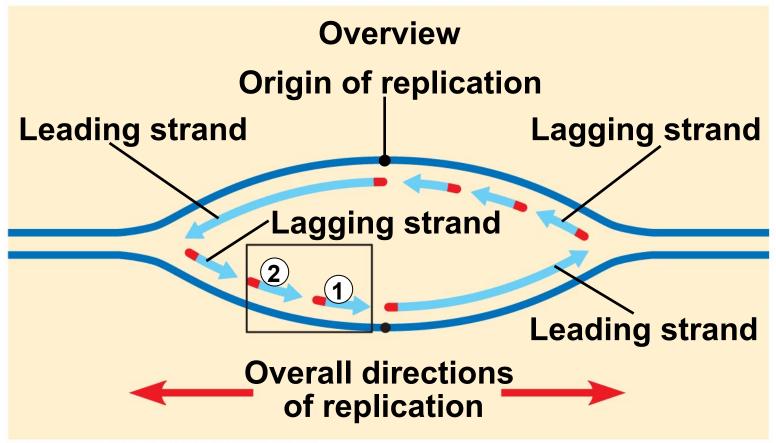
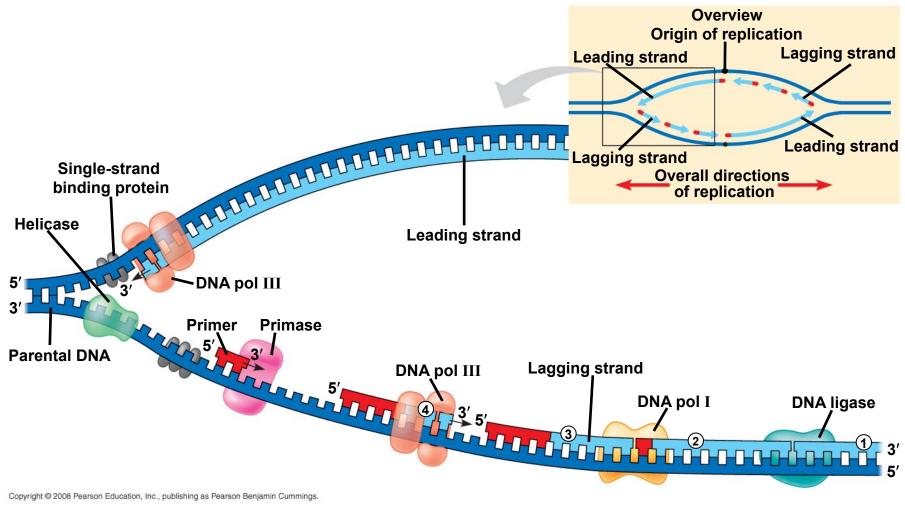


Table 16-1

Table 16.1 Bacterial DNA Replication Proteinsand Their Functions

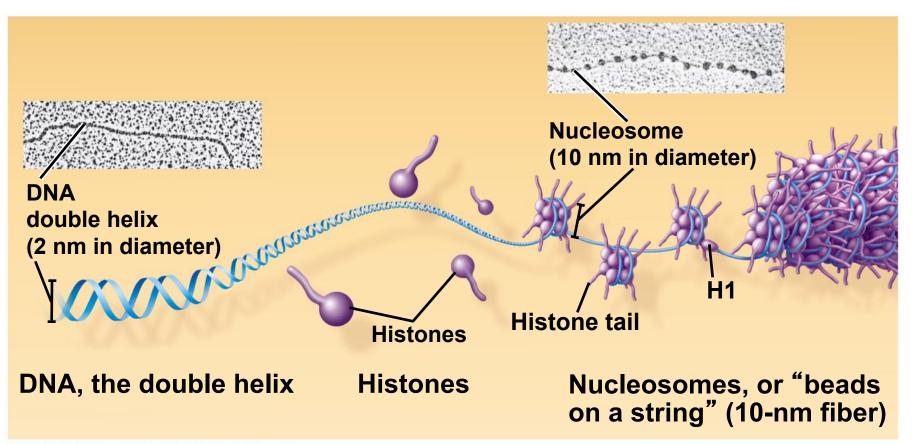
Protein	Function
Helicase	Unwinds parental double helix at replication forks
Single-strand binding protein	Binds to and stabilizes single-stranded DNA until it can be used as a template
Topoisomerase	Relieves "overwinding" strain ahead of replica- tion forks by breaking, swiveling, and rejoining DNA strands
Primase	Synthesizes an RNA primer at 5' end of leading strand and of each Okazaki fragment ofl agging strand
DNA pol III	Using parental DNA as a template, synthesizes new DNA strand by covalently adding nu- cleotides to the 3' end of a pre-existing DNA strand or RNA primer
DNA pol I	Removes RNA nucleotides of primer from 5' end and replaces them with DNA nucleotides
DNA ligase	Joins 3' end of DNA that replaces primer to rest of leading strand and joins Okazaki fragments of lagging strand

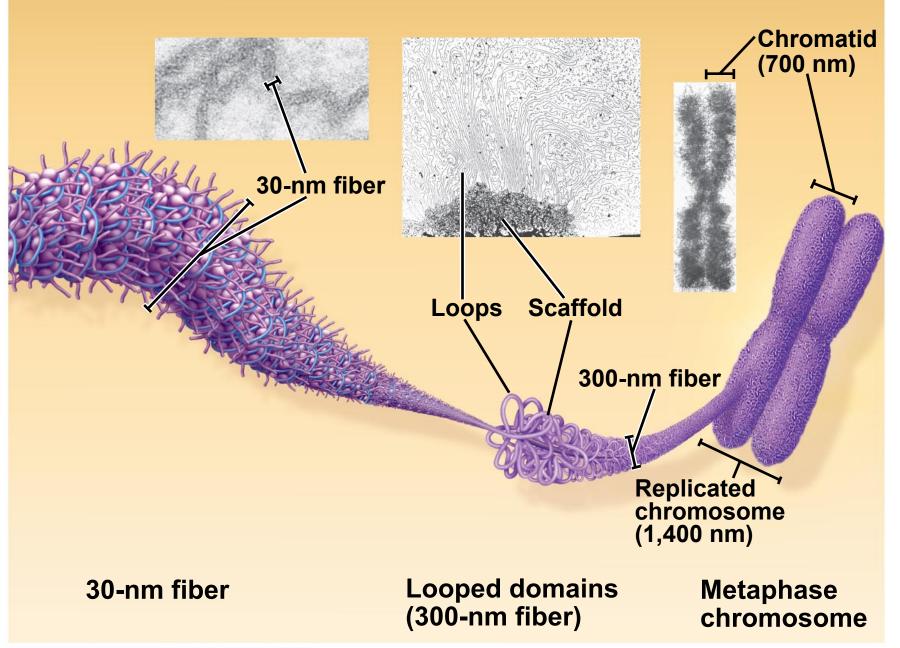


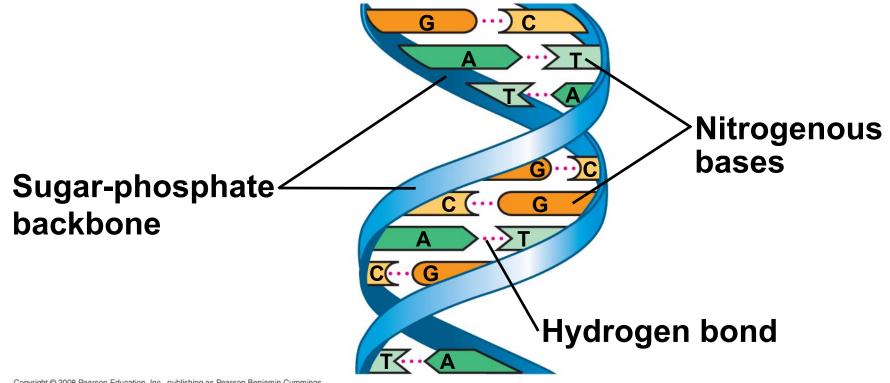
Concept 16.3 A chromosome consists of a DNA molecule packed together with proteins

- The bacterial chromosome is a doublestranded, circular DNA molecule associated with a small amount of protein
- Eukaryotic chromosomes have linear DNA molecules associated with a large amount of protein
- In a bacterium, the DNA is "supercoiled" and found in a region of the cell called the nucleoid

- **Chromatin** is a complex of DNA and protein, and is found in the nucleus of eukaryotic cells
- Histones are proteins that are responsible for the first level of DNA packing in chromatin







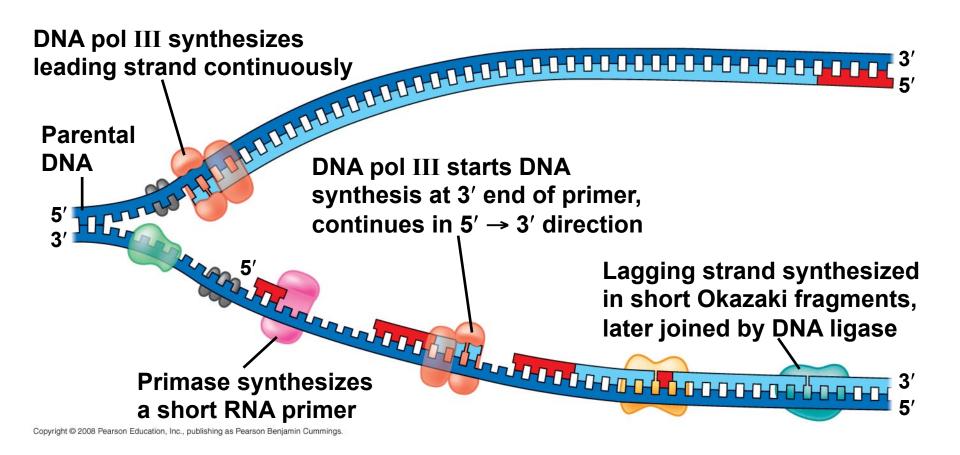
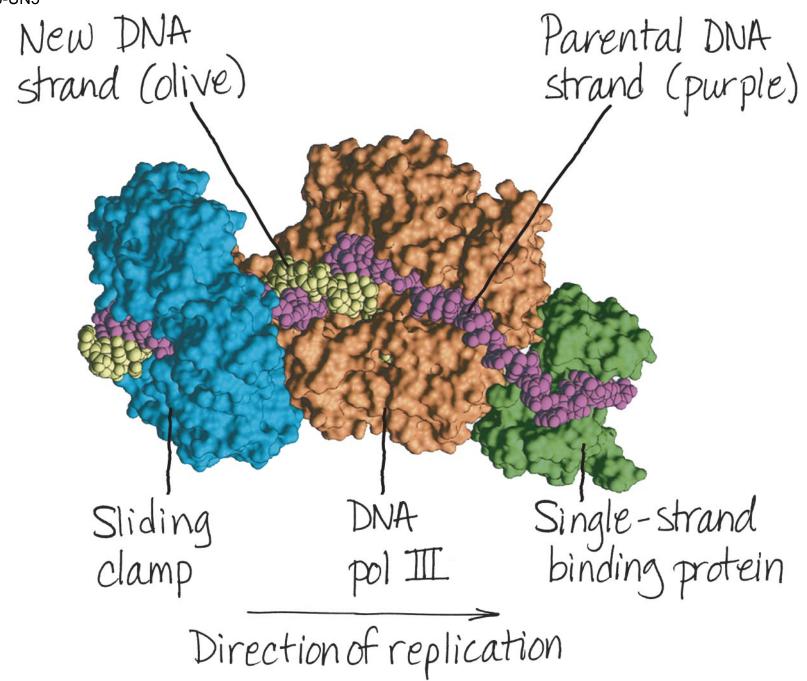


Fig. 16-UN5



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		4	2 min. 72°C
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PCR Animations

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Preview YouTube video How #2A57

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