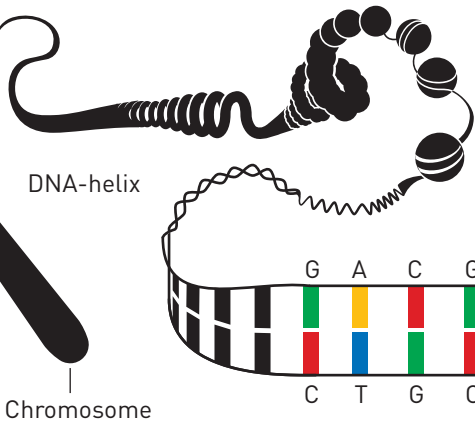
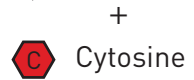
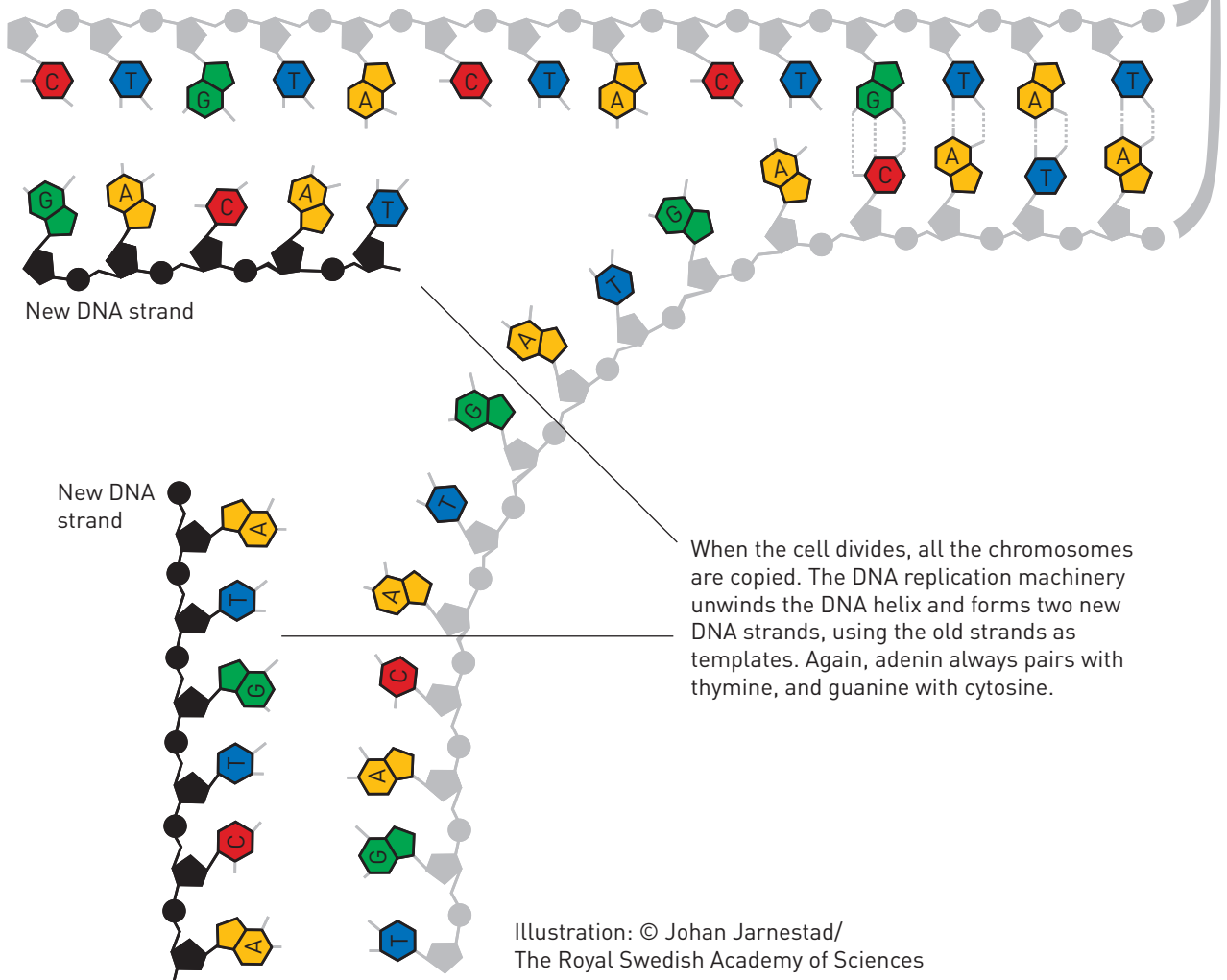


# The structure of DNA



A chromosome contains double-stranded DNA, which is made from nucleotides with four different bases. Adenine always pairs with thymine, and guanine with cytosine. Together they form “base pairs.” The cell’s 46 chromosomes comprise approximately 6 billion base pairs.



When the cell divides, all the chromosomes are copied. The DNA replication machinery unwinds the DNA helix and forms two new DNA strands, using the old strands as templates. Again, adenin always pairs with thymine, and guanine with cytosine.

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The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences