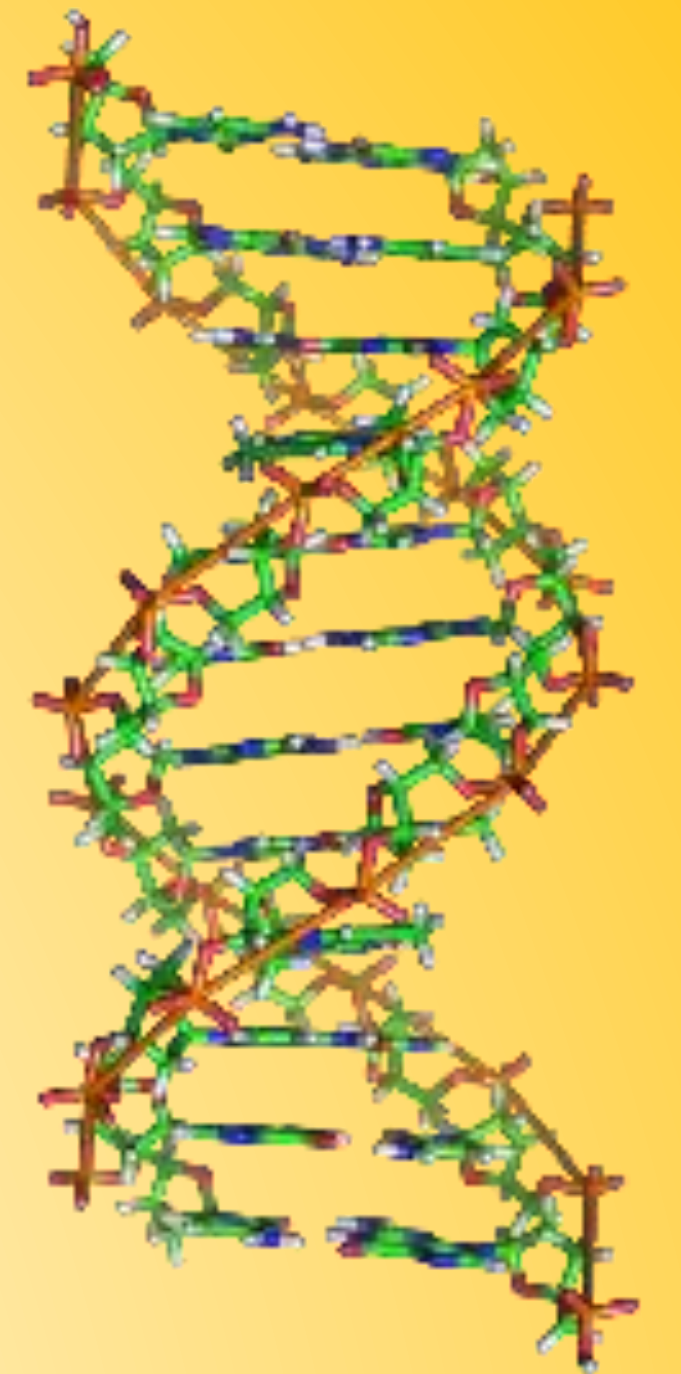


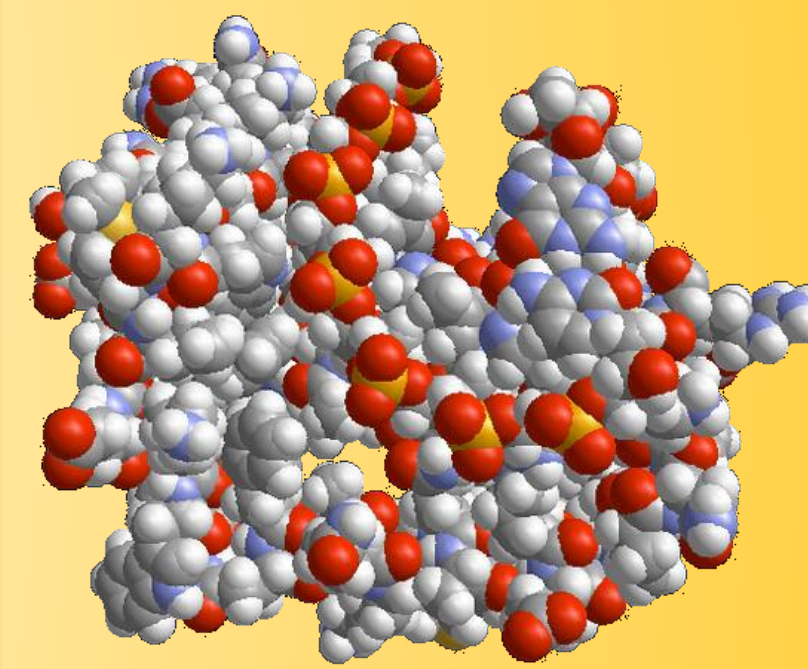
Changes to DNA can affect how proteins are assembled, which can change an organism's traits.

- Mutations occur whenever DNA is changed (e.g., if a base is inserted, deleted, or substituted).



Changing an organism's traits can affect their likelihood of survival and reproduction.

- Natural selection is the process in which environmental conditions determine if a mutation is helpful or harmful.



If a mutation provides benefits, it can become increasingly common, changing the species.

- Evolution refers to changes to species over time due to the effects of mutations and natural selection.

