Horses

Although the genetics of horses haven’t been fully decoded. Scientists estimate that humans share about 84% of our genetic code with horses. This might seem rather high, until you think about all of the features share. Like all mammals, we have warm blood, we have hair, we have two arms and two legs and a skull and a brain. We’re really not as different as you might think.

Fish

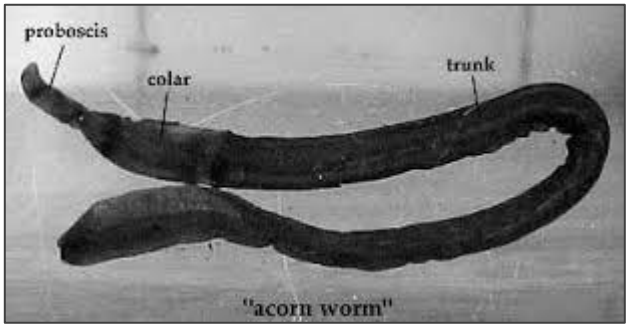
Sequencing of the entire genetic make-up of the zebrafish has revealed that 70% of protein-coding human genes are related to genes found in the zebrafish.

At first glance, this number might seem high, but like us zebrafish are vertebrates, and we share a common ancestor. They are remarkably biologically similar to humans and share the majority of the same genes, making them an important model for understanding how genes work in health and disease (Science Daily, 2013).

Worms

You'd never know at first glance, but human beings have a surprising amount in common with acorn worms.

More than 500 million years ago, humans and these soft-bodied invertebrates had a common ancestor. And to this day, we share about 14,000 genes. In fact, in terms of genetic makeup, we are 70% similar, according to the findings of a new study (Live Science, 2015). Humans, meet your slithering underwater cousins!

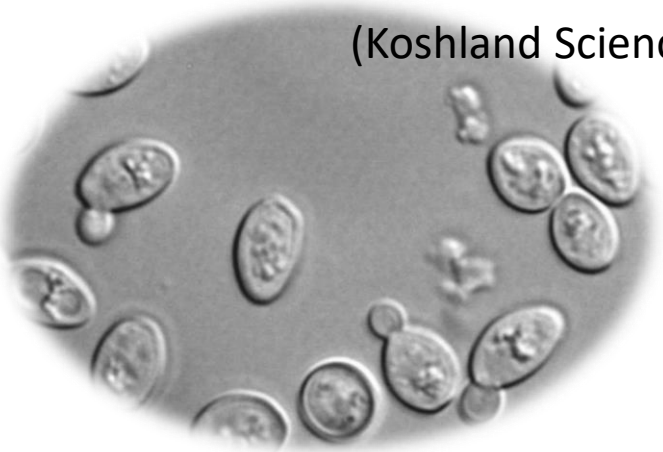


Yeast

Did you know humans share 26% of their DNA with yeast? Those little microscopic decomposers. The organisms that make bread rise. The organisms that can give us “athlete’s foot!”

Yeasts may be single-celled organisms, but they have many housekeeping genes that are the same as the genes in humans, such as those that enable energy to be derived from the breakdown of sugars, the instructions to build a cell membrane, etc.

(Koshland Science Museum, 2016)

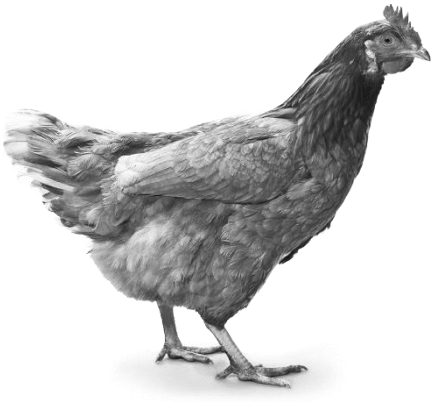


Chicken

An international research consortium has found that chickens and humans share more than half of their genes, but that their DNA sequences diverge in ways that may explain some of the important differences between birds and mammals.

About 60% of chicken genes correspond to a similar human gene. However, researchers uncovered more small sequence differences between chickens and humans genes than between rodents and humans.

So put down that tasty sandwich! What you're eating is mostly human (Science Daily, 2004).



Apes

According to National Geographic, humans share about 99% of our DNA with chimpanzees. And we share a similarly large percentage with gorillas, orangutans, and other apes.

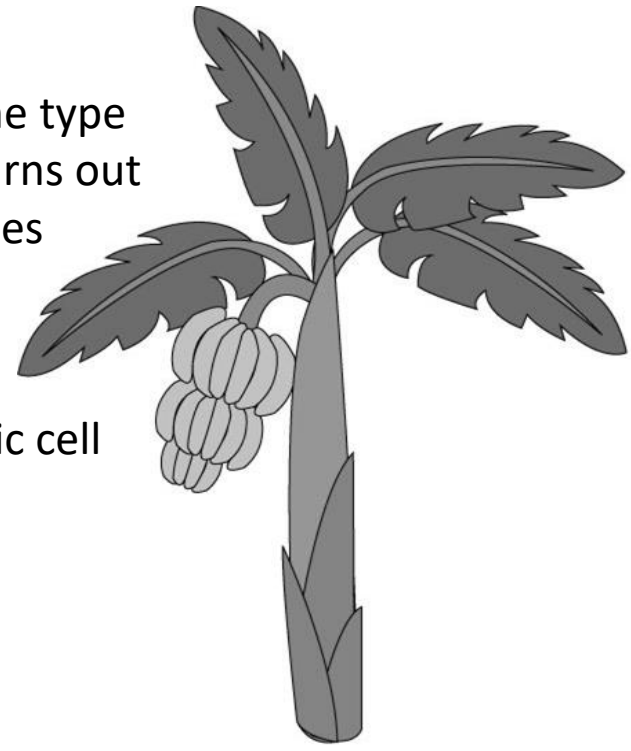
However, it's important to remember that that 1% of unique human DNA still contains about 60,000,000 pairs of letters (AT, CG, etc.) So there are still plenty of differences.

(National Geographic, 2005).

Trees

Comparing human DNA to tree DNA is tricky. After all, there are thousands of different types of trees, and not all of them have had their genetics decoded.

But banana trees, for example, are one type that has been fully decoded. And it turns out humans share about 50% of their genes with banana trees.



Some of these similarities include the instructions for copying DNA, basic cell organelles, the plan for mitosis, etc.

Dinosaurs

So how much DNA do dinosaurs share with humans?

“Unfortunately this question cannot be answered precisely, because no dinosaur DNA has survived. The most optimistic estimates would be under 6.8 million years for DNA to survive, though at roughly 1.5 million years, it would be so degraded that hardly any useful information could be retrieved. And dinosaurs disappeared roughly 65 million years ago” (Adriana Heguy, 2013).

Sorry guys, there will never be a Jurassic Park ☹

Sea Sponges

Well if there wasn't a good enough reason to save our oceans, there is now! Australian Scientists have completed a study revealing that humans and sea sponges have about 70% of our DNA in common. After completing the genetic sequencing of sea sponges from the Great Barrier Reef, there's no doubt that we're still intricately linked to our most ancient ancestors.

But the link is more than an interesting fun fact. The DNA shared between humans and sea sponges includes many that are typically associated with disease and cancer, and researchers at the University of Queensland say this means the potential for new breakthroughs in cancer research.