

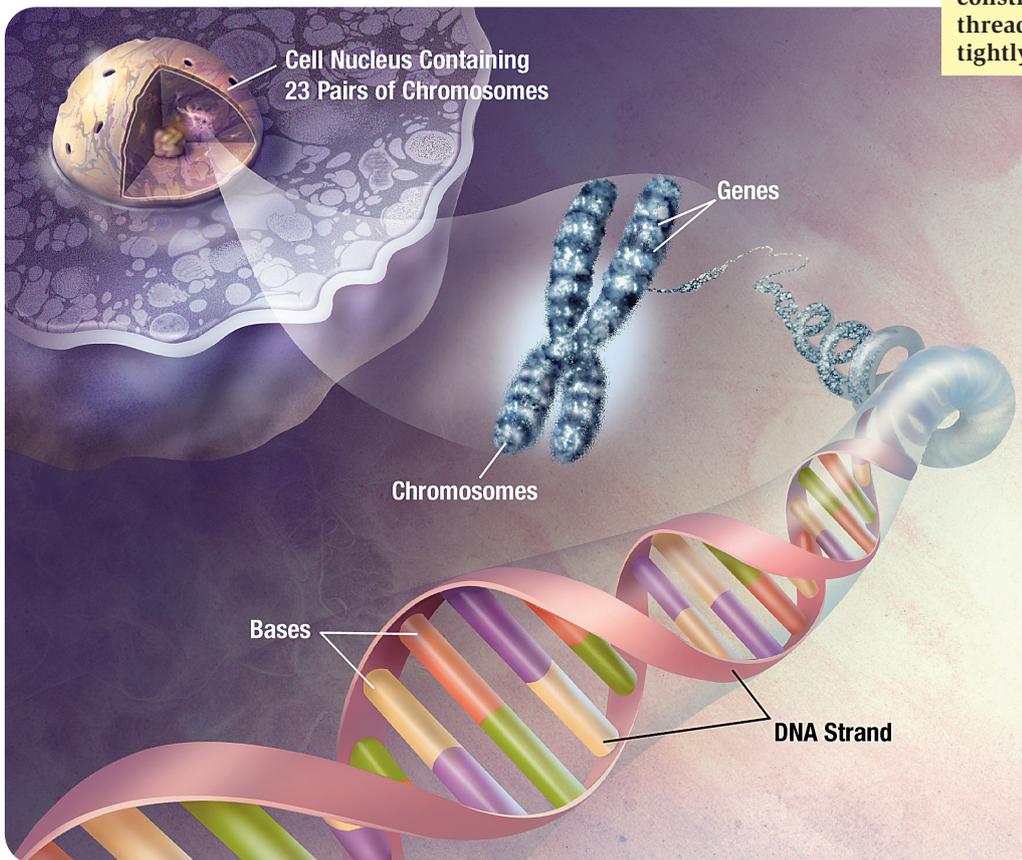
What is a chromosome?

In the nucleus of each cell, the DNA molecule is packaged into **thread**-like structures called chromosomes. Each chromosome is made up of DNA tightly coiled many times around proteins called histones that support its structure.

Chromosomes are not visible in the cell nucleus, not even under a microscope. However, the DNA that makes up chromosomes becomes more **tightly** packed during cell division and is then visible under

a microscope. Most of what researchers know about chromosomes was learned by observing chromosomes during cell division.

Each chromosome has a **constriction** point called the centromere, which divides the chromosome into two sections, or “arms.” The location of the centromere on each chromosome gives the chromosome its characteristic shape, and can be used to help describe the location of specific genes.



constriction: *restringimento*
thread: *filo*
tightly: *saldamente*



In science, the suffix **-ome** is used to refer to a complete set of something. Apart from “chromosome” or “genome”, can you find other examples?