

# **The Chemistry of Life**

# Organic and Inorganic molecules

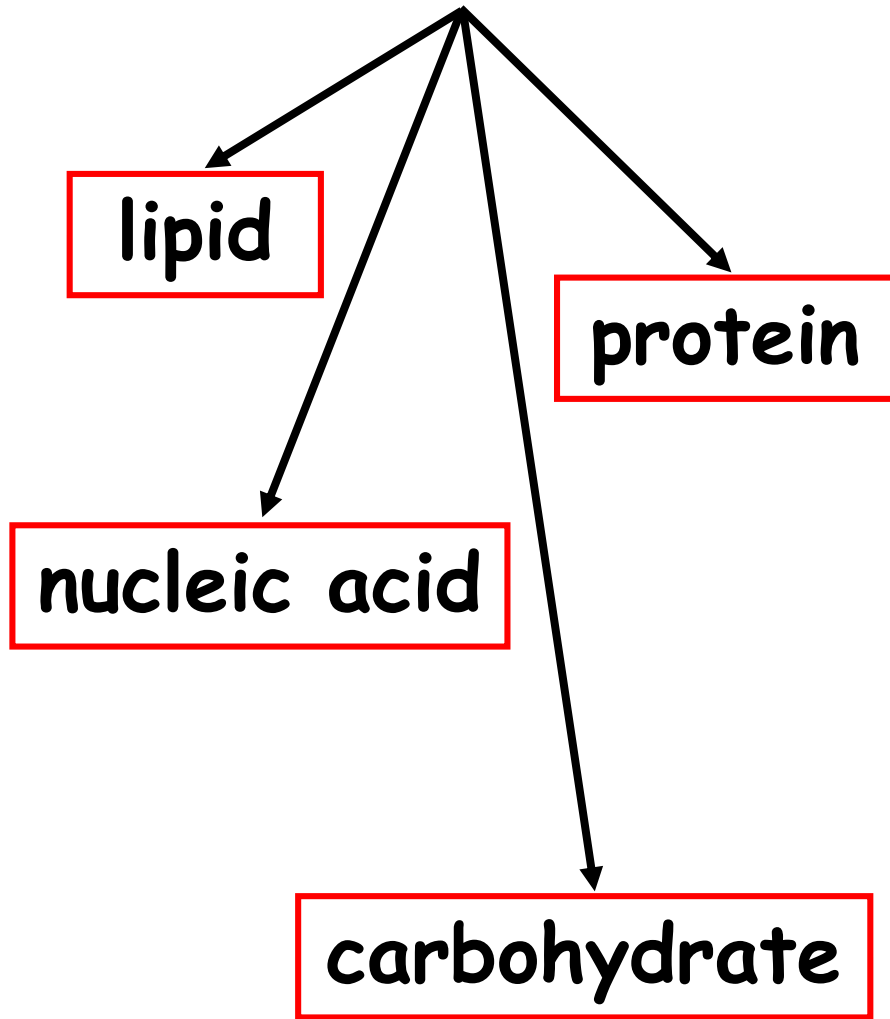
## Organic Molecules

**ORGANIC** compounds contain a carbon-hydrogen bond ( $C_6H_{12}O_6$ )

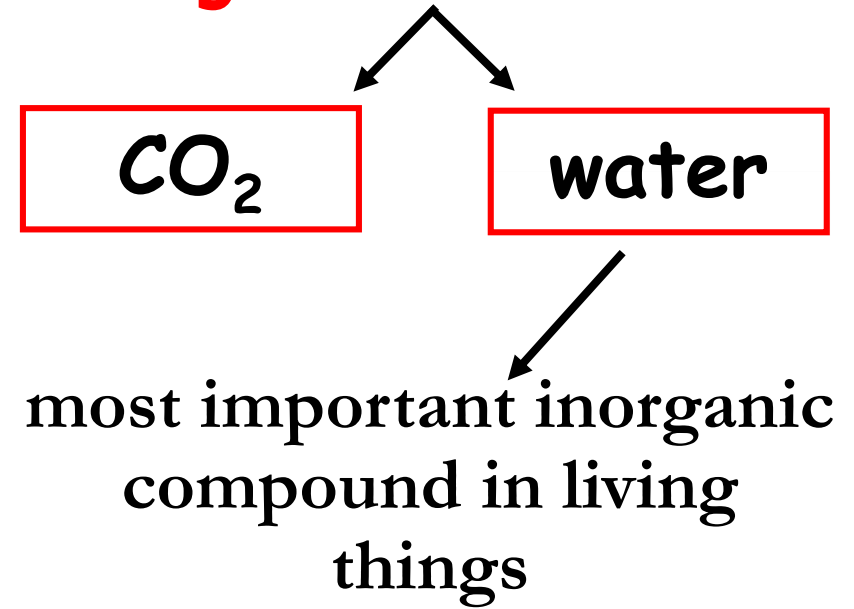
## Inorganic Molecules

**INORGANIC** compounds do not contain a carbon-hydrogen bonds ( $CO_2$ ,  $H_2O$ )

# Organic Molecules



# Inorganic Molecules



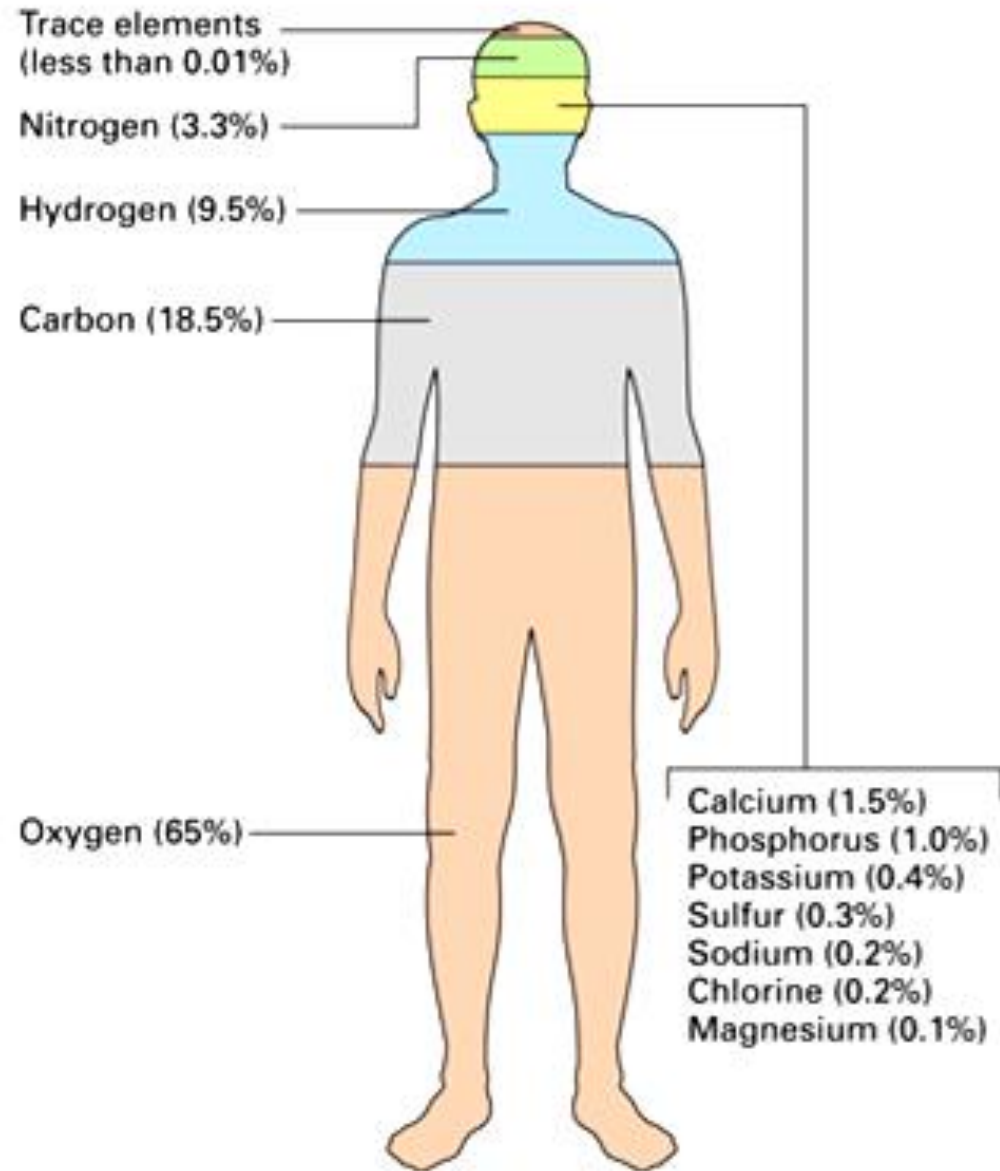
# Why is water so important?

- **Approximately 70% of the body is made of water**
- **most cellular processes take place in water solutions**
- **excellent solvent (substances dissolve in water)**

# Elements of Life

•96% of living organisms is made of:

- carbon (C)
- oxygen (O)
- hydrogen (H)
- nitrogen (N)



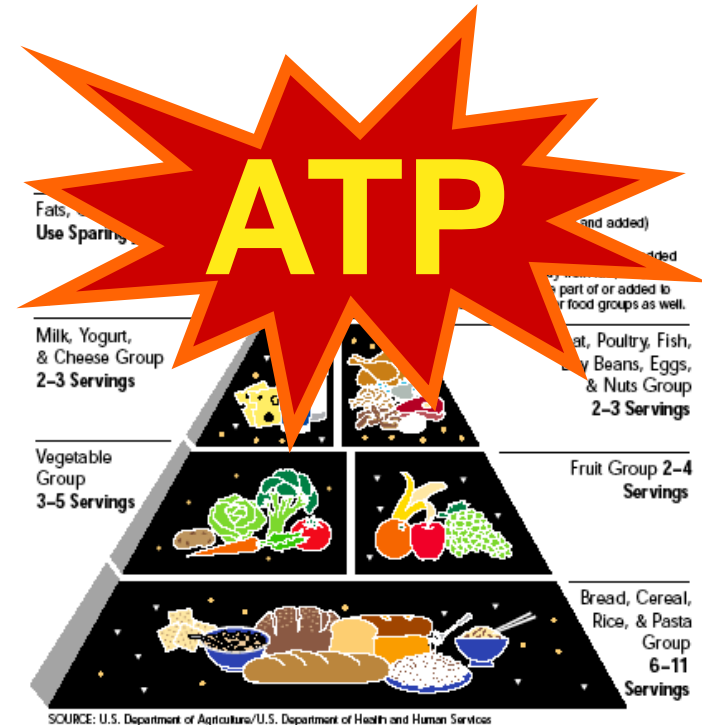
# What are organisms made of?

- **Carbohydrates**
- **Lipids**
- **Proteins**
- **Nucleic Acids**



# Why do we eat?

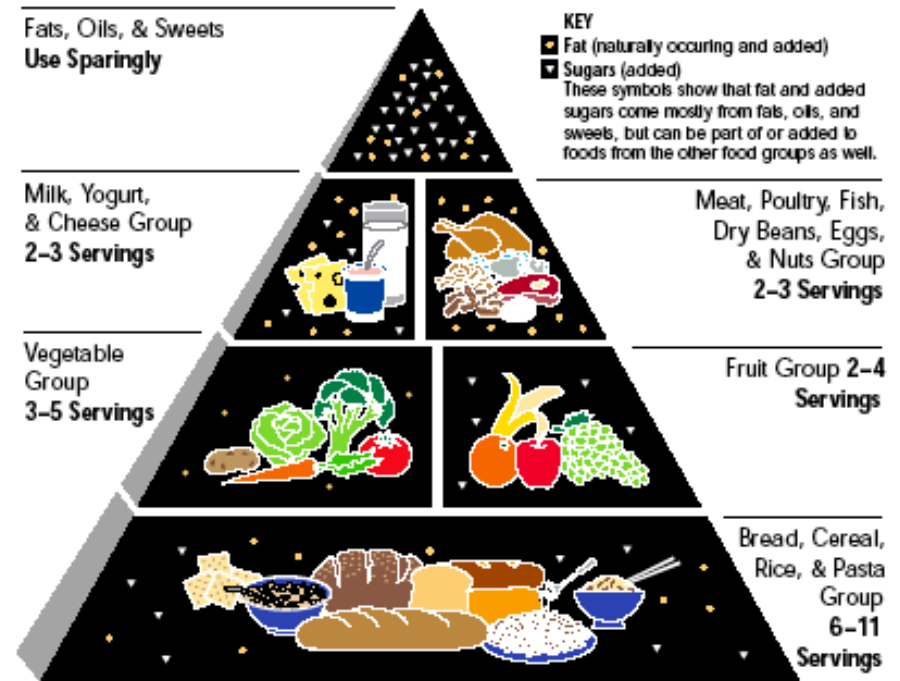
- We eat to take in more of these chemicals
  - Food for building materials
    - to make more of us (cells)
    - for growth
    - for repair
  - Food to make energy
    - calories
    - to make ATP



- **Foods give organisms more building blocks & more energy**

(for building & running their bodies)

- **carbohydrates**
- **proteins**
- **fats**
- **nucleic acids**
- **vitamins**
- **minerals, salts**
- **water**

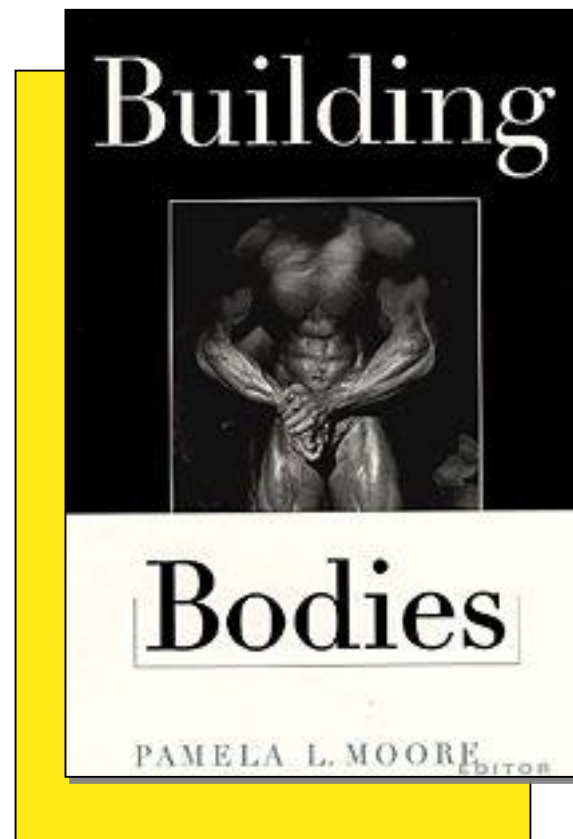


SOURCE: U.S. Department of Agriculture/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



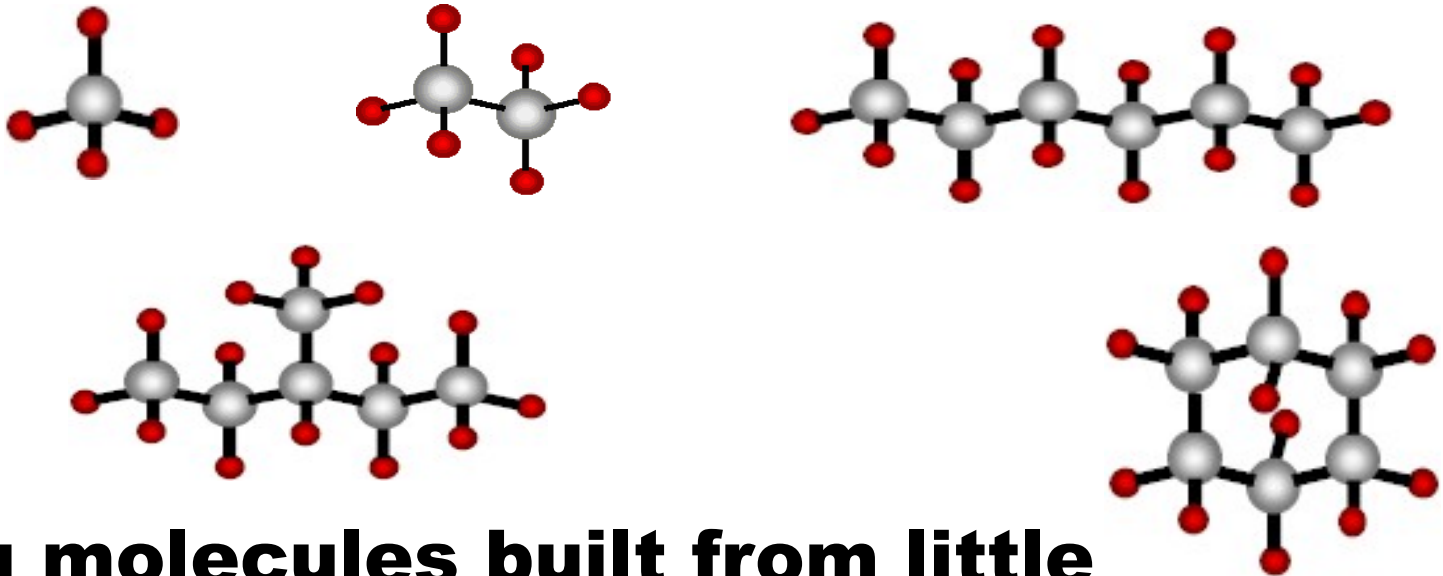
**How do we make these  
molecules?**

**We build them!**



# Building large molecules of life

- **Chain together smaller molecules**
  - building block molecules = **monomers**
  - Monomers are also called subunits



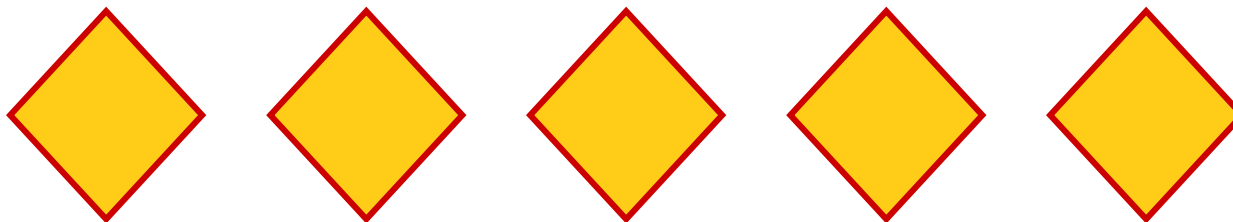
- **Big molecules built from little molecules**
  - **polymers**

# Let's use some analogies . . .

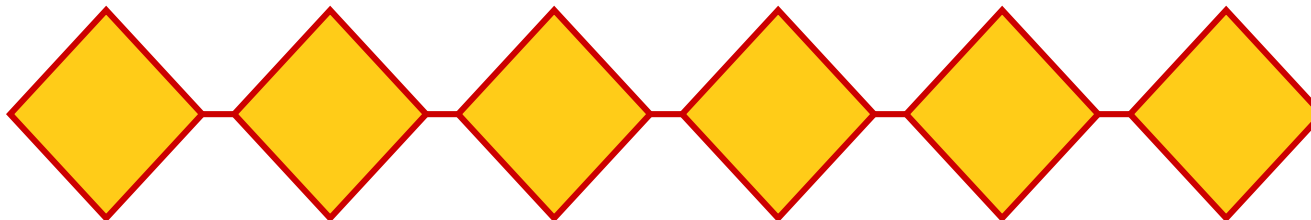
- If the polymer is the floor in this room, the monomer is \_\_\_\_\_
- If the polymer is a brick wall, the monomer is \_\_\_\_\_
- If the monomer is a link in a chain, the polymer is \_\_\_\_\_
- If the monomer is a fence board, the polymer is \_\_\_\_\_

# Building large organic molecules

- Small molecules = monomer (building blocks)



- Bond them together = polymers



Building important polymers

**Carbohydrates = built from sugars (saccharides)**

**sugar – sugar – sugar – sugar – sugar – sugar**

**Proteins = built from amino acids**

**amino amino amino amino amino amino  
acid – acid – acid – acid – acid – acid**

The order of the amino acids is important! It decides what protein is made.

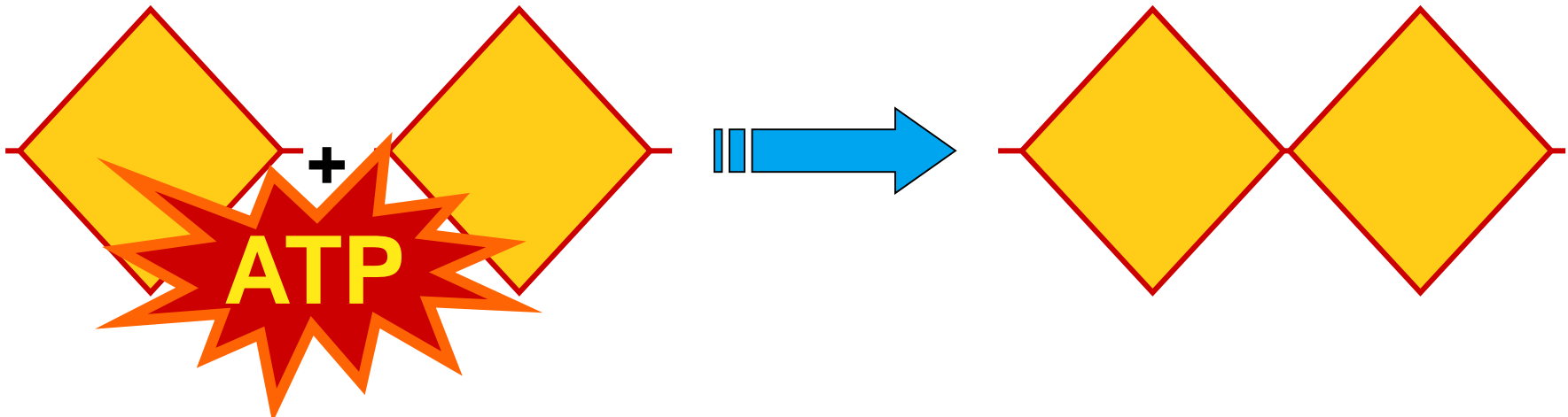
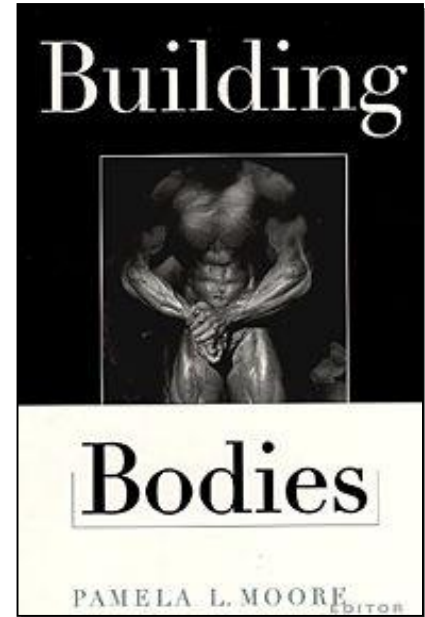
**Nucleic acids (DNA) = built from nucleotides**

**nucleotide – nucleotide – nucleotide – nucleotide**

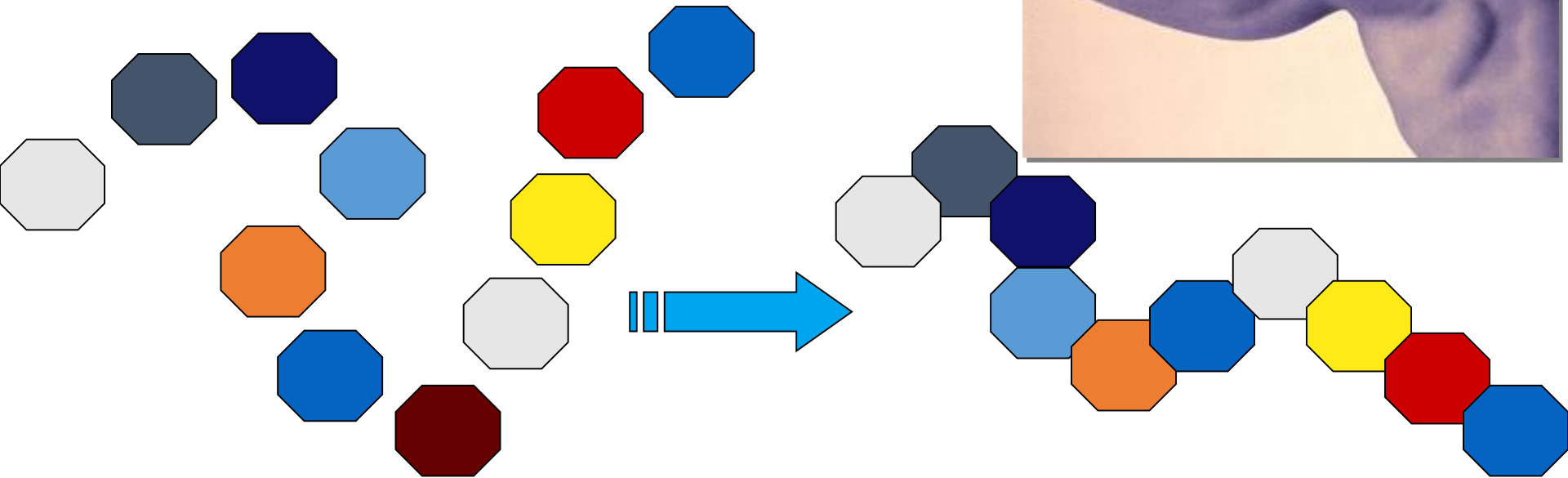
The order of the nucleotides is important! It decides what gene is made.

# How to build large molecules

- **Synthesis = to make or build**
  - building cells & bodies
    - repair
    - growth
    - reproduction



# Example of synthesis



**amino acids**

**protein**

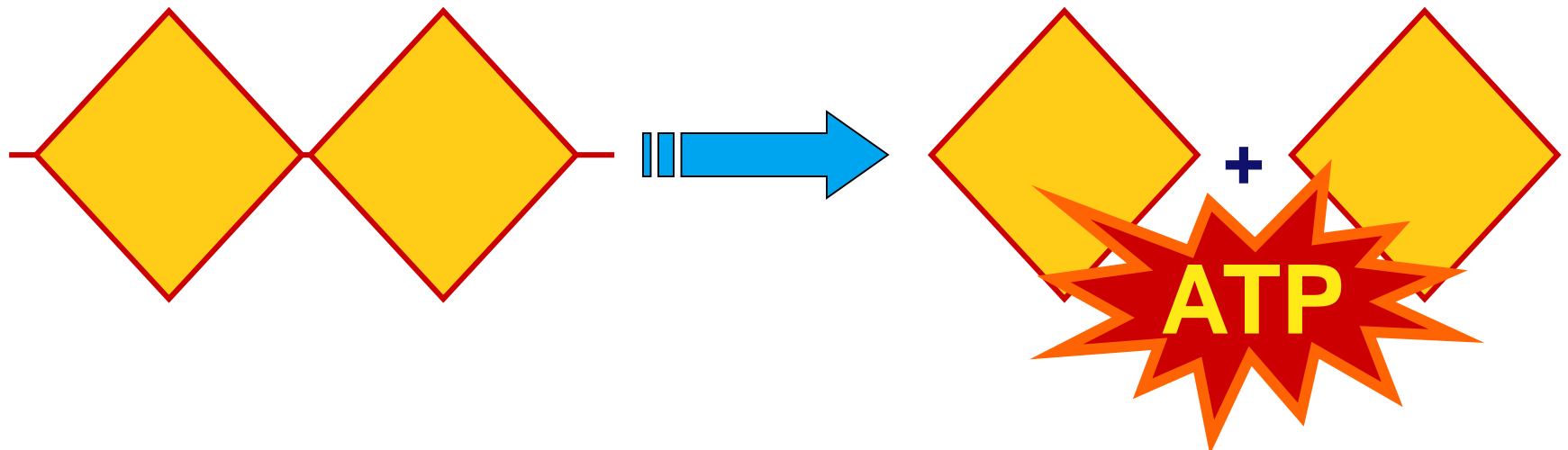
- Proteins are synthesized by bonding amino acids

amino acids = building block

protein = polymer

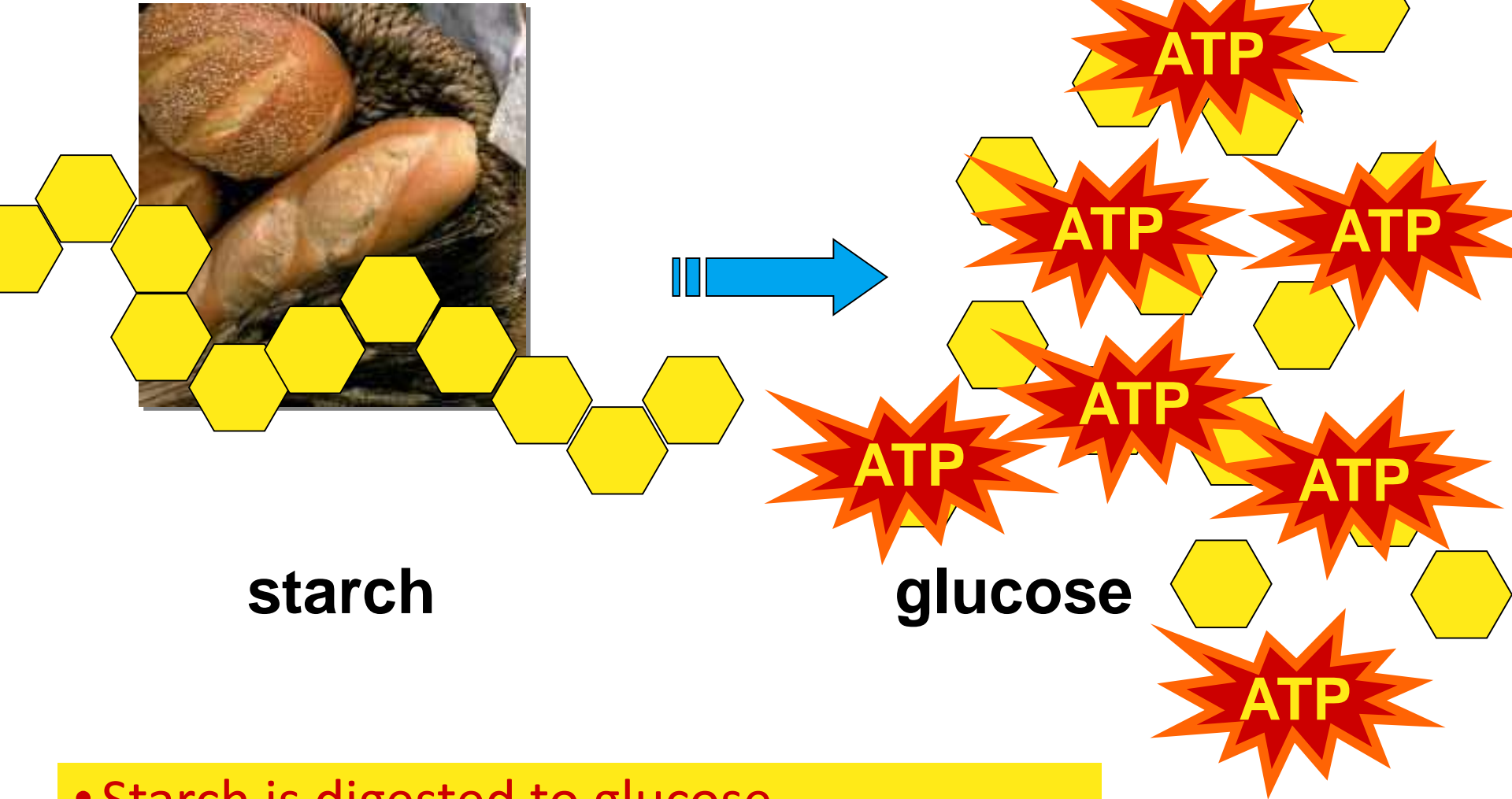
# How to take large molecules apart

- **Digestion = Breakdown or apart**
  - getting raw materials
    - for synthesis & growth
  - making energy (ATP)
    - for synthesis, growth & everyday functions





# Example of digestion

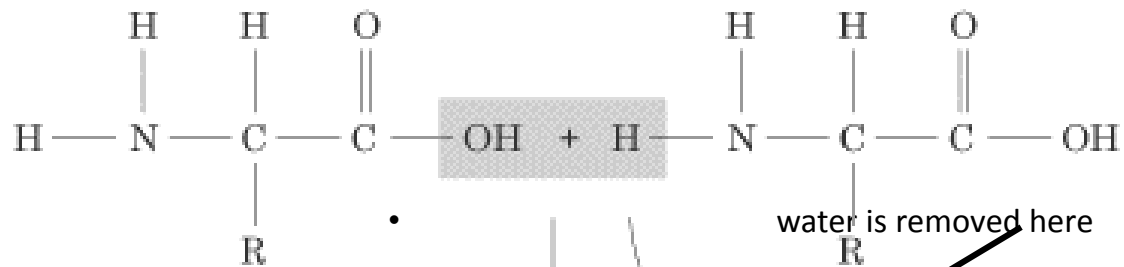


- Starch is digested to glucose

- Dehydration Synthesis – Water removed to make a new molecule
- Hydrolysis – the splitting of a polymer by adding water

## Re-cap:

- If we \_\_\_\_\_ water, we build a molecule
- If we \_\_\_\_\_ water, we break a molecule
- Which is smaller? The monomer or the polymer?



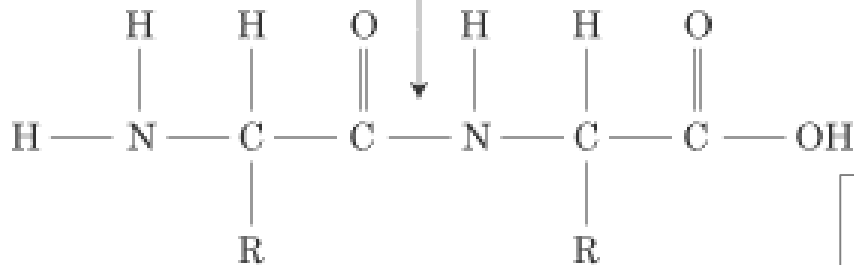
water is removed here

peptide  
bond

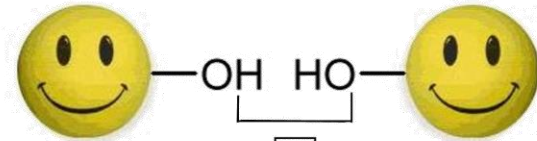


two molecules combine to

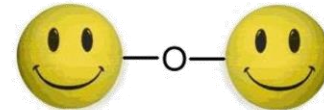
form ONE molecule



### Dehydration Synthesis

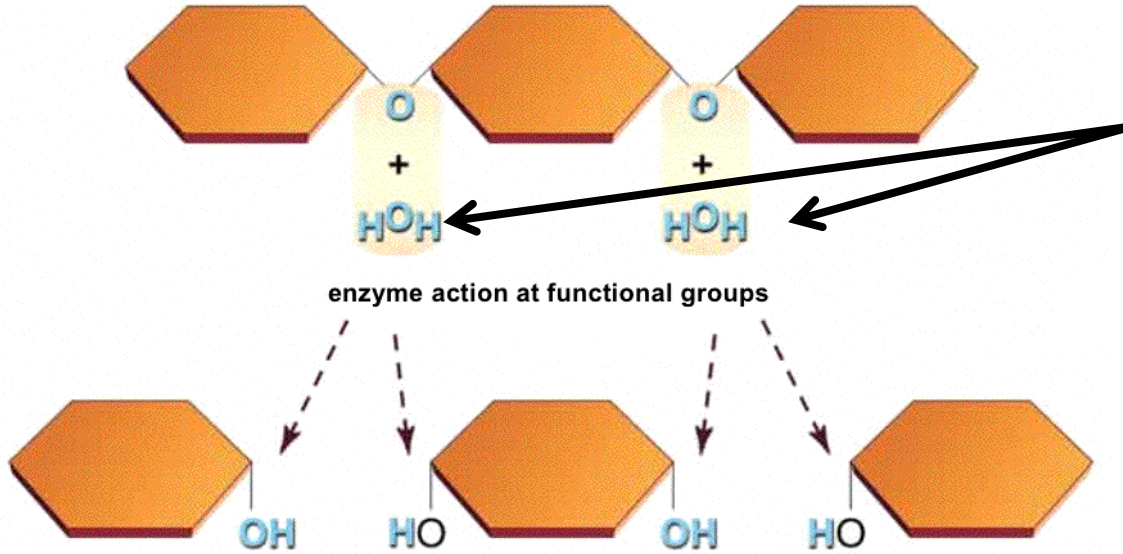


1. 1 Water molecule is removed  
from adjacent OH groups



2. Remaining Oxygen  
joins the  
2 monomers with an  
oxygen bridge

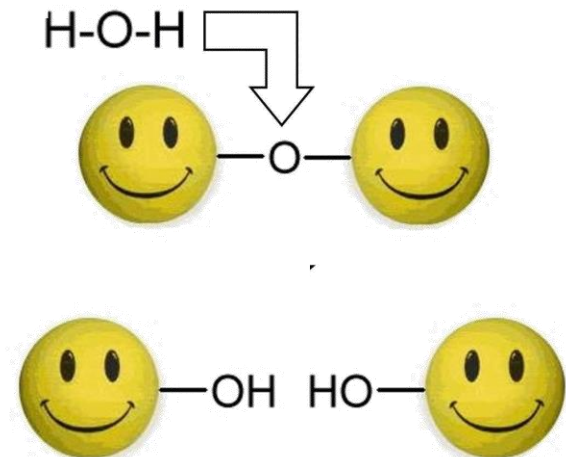
## Hydrolysis



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1. Water molecule is inserted into oxygen bridge, breaking bond.

## Hydrolysis



# Metabolism -

- Chemical processes necessary for maintaining life.

**Anabolism** – Synthesizing (building) materials to sustain life.

**Constructive metabolism**

**Catabolism** – Breaking down substances to release energy needed to sustain life.

**Destructive metabolism**

# Molecules of Life

- **There are 4 molecules essential to life:**
  - **Carbohydrates**
  - **Lipids**
  - **Proteins**
  - **Nucleic acids**
- **Together they are considered “molecules of life”**
  - **Macromolecule**
  - **Biomolecule**
  - **Life substance**

**Any  
Questions?**

