

The genetic blueprint

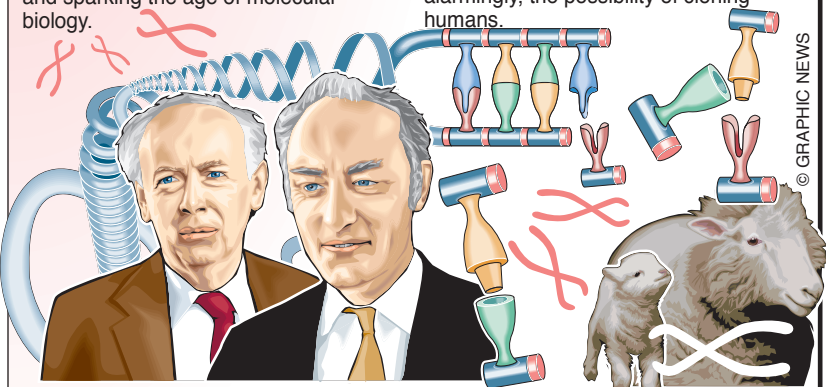
FRANCIS HARRY COMPTON CRICK
and **JAMES DEWEY WATSON:**

British physicist Crick and American postdoctoral student Watson collaborated in Cambridge to solve arguably the most important mystery of biology: the molecular structure of the chemical **deoxyribonucleic acid**, or **DNA**.

Their double-helix model eventually revealed how cells use DNA to store and pass on genetic blueprints – unlocking the key to the mechanisms of heredity and sparking the age of molecular biology.

DOLLY AND BEYOND: The cloning of Dolly the sheep in 1997, by researchers at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh, signalled a new era which left behind the mere understanding of genetics and embraced the manipulation of living forms.

Dolly, the first mammal ever to be derived from the cells of another mammal, heralds an age of sophisticated **genetic engineering** – already used to produce better meat and milk, for example – and, more alarmingly, the possibility of cloning humans.



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Crick

1916: Born June 8, Northampton, England

1957: Crick and George Gamov discover how DNA directs protein development within cells

1962: Crick, Watson and Wilkins awarded Nobel Prize

1976: Joins Salk Institute, California. Research continues into origins of life

1800

1900

2000

Watson

1928: Born April 6, Chicago, Illinois

1953: Crick and Watson discover double helix structure of DNA using X-ray diffraction developed by physicist Maurice Wilkins

1955: Invited to teach at Harvard University

1968: Appointed Director of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York. Assists in direction of **Human Genome Project**