

## Code crackers



30 minutes



For each group of **four pupils** you will require:

- Codes for cracking worksheets
- Code cracking wheel sheets
- Protein profile cards
- Answer sheet



Begin the activity by discussing with your pupils that DNA contains the instructions for making all living things. Within the DNA code are instructions for making proteins. Proteins are the building blocks and machinery inside of all the cells that make up a living thing. Our DNA code gives our body instructions to make different proteins for different functions, like digesting food, making our hair, and making energy.

Explain to the class that in small groups they are going to crack DNA codes to find out what various proteins do.



Provide each group with a worksheet, a code cracking wheel and a set of protein profiles.

Their task is to work together to decode the DNA and identify which protein it is giving the instruction to make. When they are finished share the answer sheet to see if they got it right!