

The millions of bases, which make up the human genome are organized into structures called chromosomes. These are arranged into 22 matching pairs plus one pair of sex chromosomes consisting of two X's in women, and an X and a Y in men. So humans have a total of 46 chromosomes in each cell, known collectively as a karyotype. This set of chromosomes has a Y, so it must belong to a male. Only one chromosome in each pair is shown here. If you would like to see how our DNA is intricately folded up into chromosomes, view the animation called "How DNA is Packaged".