1. In the nucleus of each cell, the DNA molecule is packaged into thread-like structures called chromosomes.

2. In humans, each cell contains 23 pairs of chromosomes, for a total of 46.

3. 22 of these pairs are called autosomes and look the same in men and women. The 23rd pair, the sex chromosomes, differ between men and women.

4. Men have one Y chromosome and one X chromosome. Women have two X chromosomes.

5. The Y chromosome is one-third the size of the X chromosome. The X has more than 1000 genes, while the Y has fewer than 200.

6. Some genes that were thought to be lost from the Y chromosome have actually relocated to autosomes.

7. The Y chromosome, found only in men, is passed from father to son.

8. The Y chromosomes of all living men are related through a single male ancestor who lived over 100,000 years ago.

9. Men who smoke have fewer Y chromosomes in their blood cells compared to non-smokers.

10. Y’s are complicated! The ability to sequence the Y chromosome is relatively new field of genomics research.

11. Many health conditions are related to changes in particular genes on the Y chromosome.

Happy Father’s Day from Genome: 11 Neat Facts About the Y Chromosome

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