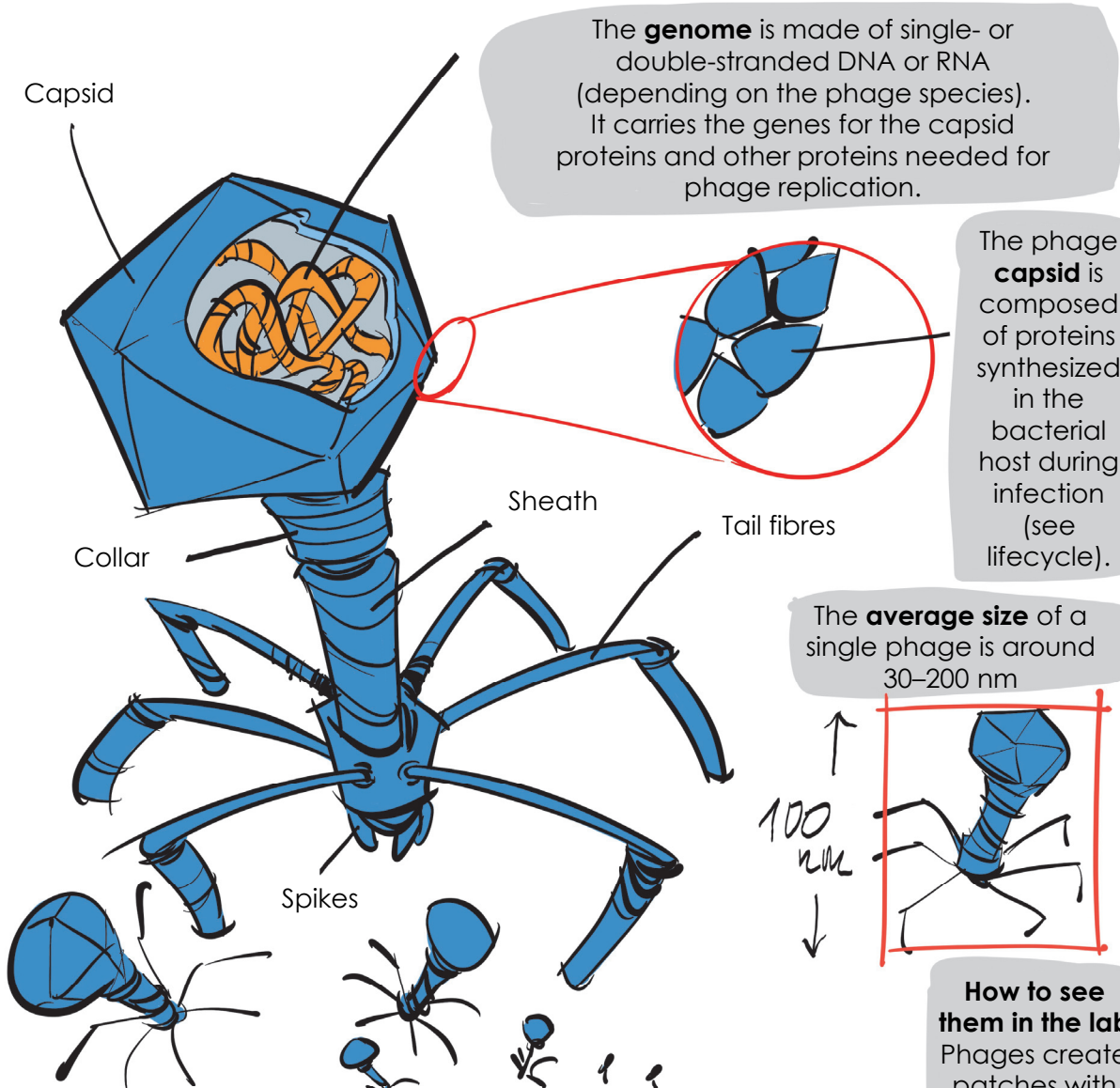


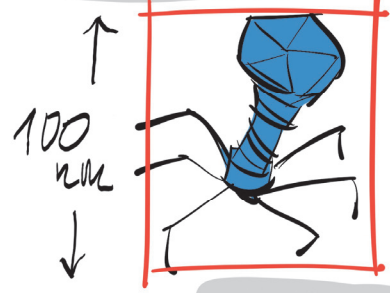
# Phage Infosheet



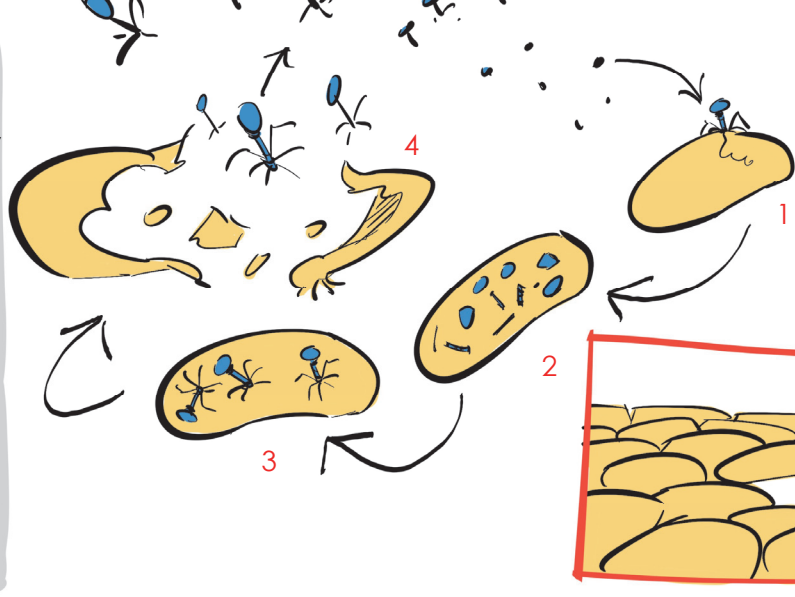
The **genome** is made of single- or double-stranded DNA or RNA (depending on the phage species). It carries the genes for the capsid proteins and other proteins needed for phage replication.

The phage **capsid** is composed of proteins synthesized in the bacterial host during infection (see lifecycle).

The **average size** of a single phage is around 30–200 nm



**Lifecycle**  
A phage infects a bacterium (1), which then transcribes the phage proteins (2). These assemble into new phages (3), which are released by breaking the bacterial membrane (4).



**How to see them in the lab**  
Phages create patches with no cell growth in the host bacteria called plaques. Each plaque comes from a single phage. You can count them to count the phages.

