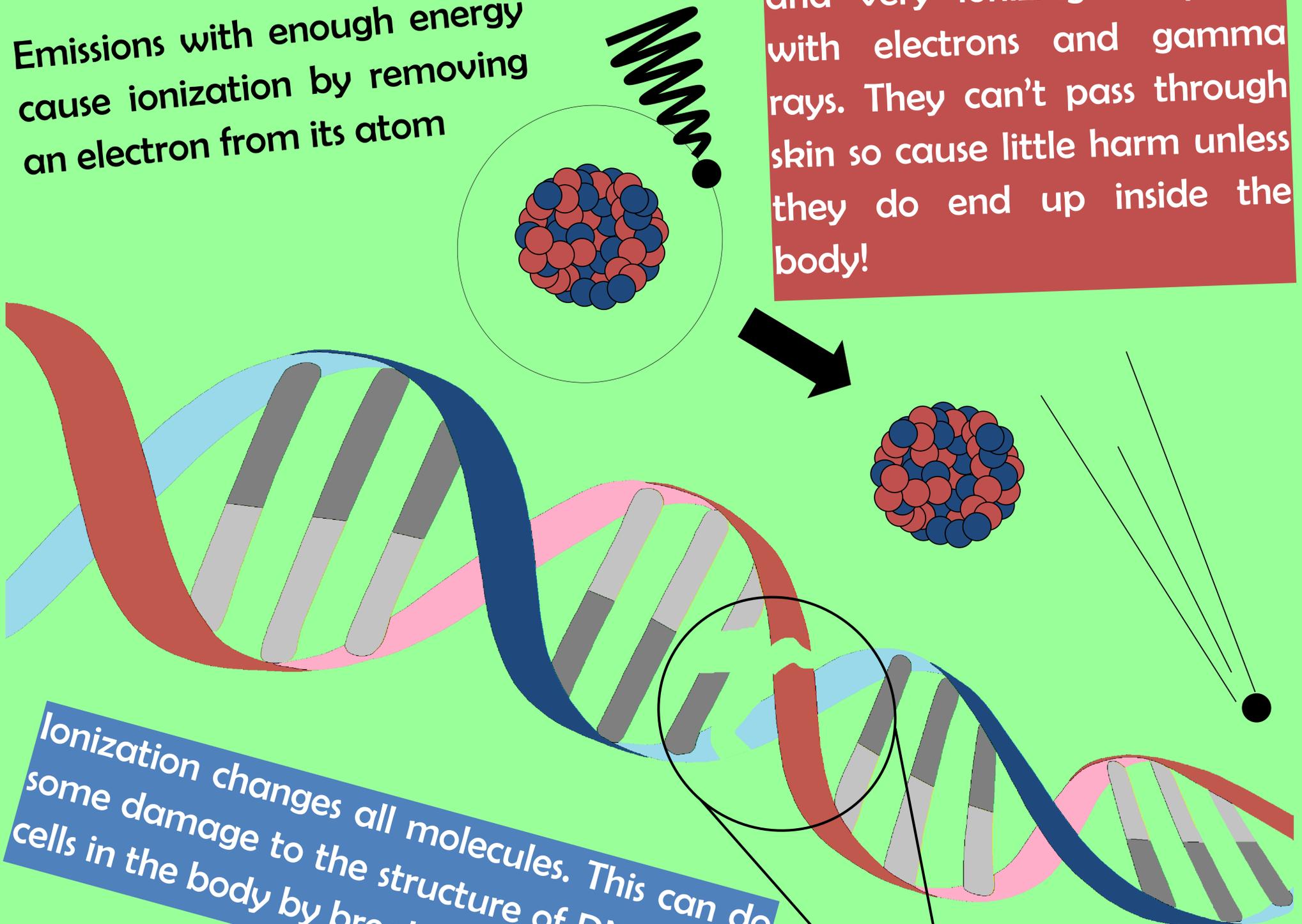


Radiation and living cells

Emissions with enough energy cause ionization by removing an electron from its atom

Alpha particles are quite big and very ionizing compared with electrons and gamma rays. They can't pass through skin so cause little harm unless they do end up inside the body!



Ionization changes all molecules. This can do some damage to the structure of DNA inside cells in the body by breaking DNA bonds.

DNA damage can cause cell mutation which leads to the uncontrolled growth of cancer cells and tumours.

