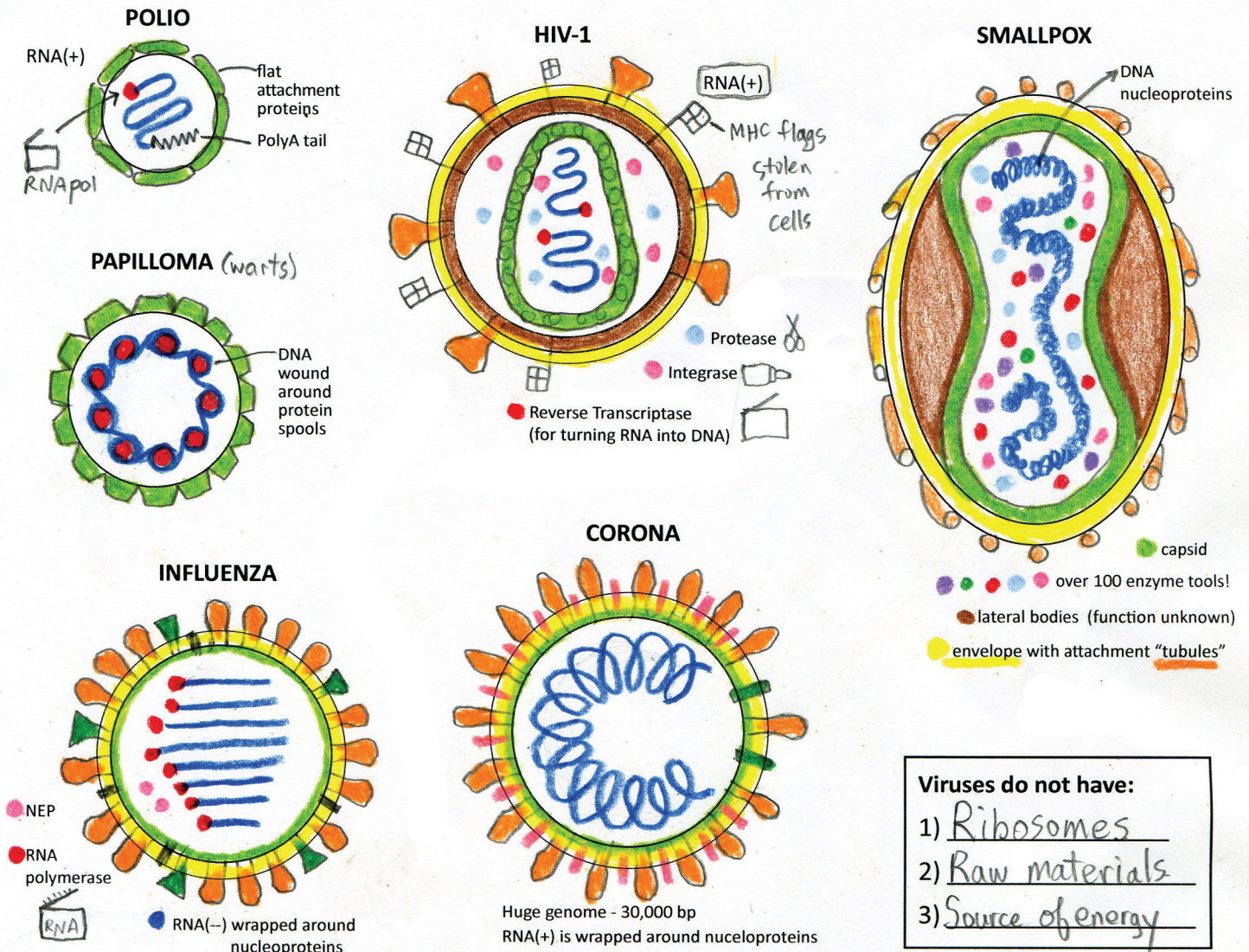


7(a): INSIDE A CAPSID

All viruses have a genome, which can be either DNA or RNA.

Many viruses also have one or more protein "tools" inside the capsid (tools it will need immediately after entry).



Virologists draw viral genomes as a straight line when they want to show where information is located. Each segment represents the instructions for one thing, sort of like a chapter in a book.

Both RNA and DNA are directional.
One end is called 5-prime and the other is 3-prime.

As a general rule, the genome is read and used in this direction.

