

Delicious or Dangerous?

SOL Reading Prep

Read the article and answer the questions that follow

Delicious or Dangerous?

- 1 People in Europe call it "Frankenfood." They refuse to buy it. People in the United States call it corn chips, soda, and frozen pizza. We eat it by the ton!
- 2 What is it? It is genetically modified food, or GM food. GM food makes up half of the processed, or man-made, food eaten in the United States. Half of the soybean crops and a third of corn crops in the United States are GM. The corn and soybeans are used to make some colas, hamburger buns, and ketchup - just to name a few.
- 3 If something is genetically modified, it means that its genes are changed. Genes are the pieces of information in cells that determine the makeup of every living thing. For example, you have genes that tell what color your eyes will be. To make GM food, scientists put genes from other sources into the plants and animals they want to change.
- 4 Sometimes the genes help crops make their own pesticides. Pesticides protect plants from bugs that damage and kill. Planting GM crops helps farmers produce more. It also lets them use fewer chemicals, which is good for the environment.

Food Fight

- 5 GM food, however, is causing fights between the United States and Europe. European shoppers say GM foods aren't natural. They fear GM food could harm people. So, they are refusing to buy it. This could cause United States farmers to lose millions of dollars.
- 6 Critics of GM foods say there should be more tests to see if GM foods harm humans. Scientists say that, so far, no humans have been harmed by eating GM foods. Even so, some studies show that GM crops could put animals at risk.
- 7 A study at Cornell University in New York found that some butterflies died after eating pollen from a certain type of GM corn. In addition, a study in England found that rats that ate GM potatoes had harmful changes in their stomachs.

A Safe Food?

8 Many scientists say humans shouldn't be afraid. "All these products are tested by government agencies," says Maarten J. Chrispeels of the University of California at San Diego. Others disagree.

9 "We have no evidence that any food on the market shows a health risk," says Mark Silbergeld of the Consumers Union in Washington, D.C. "But that does not prove they are safe." Silbergeld says all foods that contain GM ingredients should be labeled. "That way, you and your family can make your own decisions," he says.

The author's main purpose of paragraph 2 is to

- A** explain why people do not like to eat genetically modified food
- B** introduce and explain what genetically modified food is
- C** list all of the foods that contain genetically modified ingredients
- D** tell why the United States has so many different kinds of genetically modified foods

Which question is answered in paragraph 3?

- A** How do scientists alter plants or animals?
- B** How many genes are in plants?
- C** How does changing genes help the plants or animals?
- D** How often do scientists change genes in plants or animals?

Paragraph 5 is mostly about-

- A** how the United States is using GM foods
- B** the types of tests being done on GM foods
- C** concerns and impacts about GM foods
- D** the difference between Europe and the United States

What happened to the butterflies after they ate GM corn?

- A** They changed the color of their wings.
- B** They had damaging changes to their stomachs.
- C** They increased in size.
- D** They expired.

Why do some people want all GM foods to be labeled?

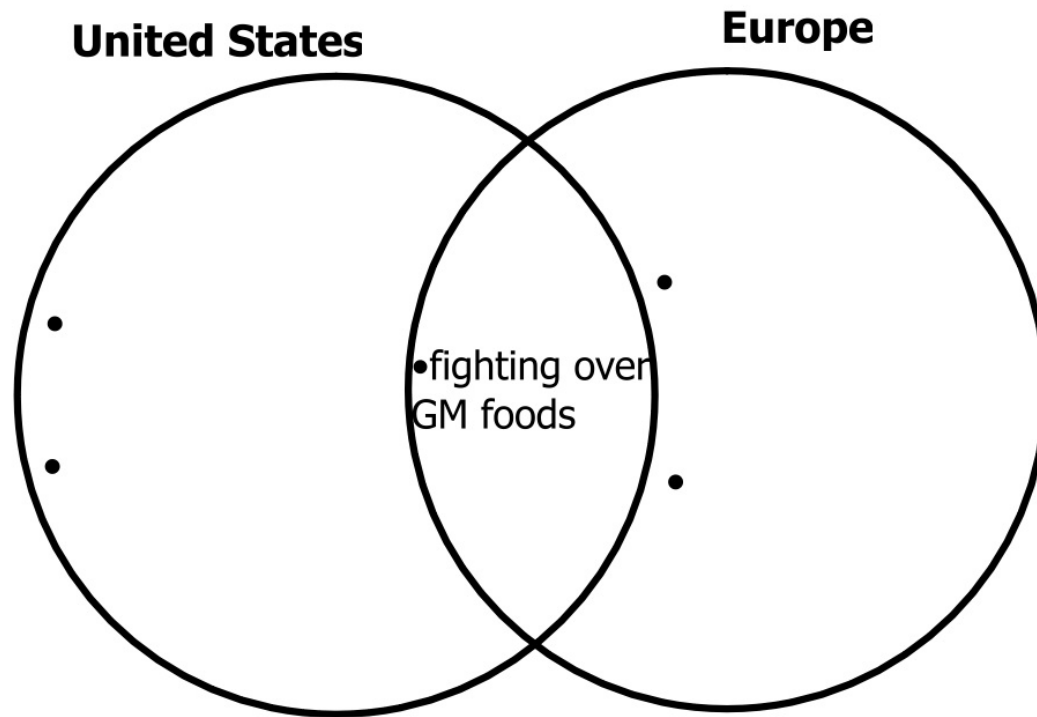
- A** So shoppers will be able to protest it.
- B** So people will pay more for the GM foods.
- C** So consumers will understand how dangerous GM food is.
- D** So customers will know if they are buying food that contain GM products.

Some people called GM food "Frankenfood" because-

- A** it is not scary
- B** it is created by scientists in a laboratory
- C** it is large and reminds them of Frankenstein
- D** the creator of it had the last name Franken

Directions: Click and drag the answers to the correct circles

Complete this Venn diagram.



- eat GM foods
- do not think GM foods are natural

- tests GM foods

- think GM foods harm people

**Directions: You do not need a passage to answer the question.
Read and answer the question. Click on the correct answers**

Which two words are synonym for difficult?

complex

effortless

simple

strenuous

uncomplicated