

Fill in the gaps with the words from the box:

dubious breed sparked akin to threshold stem spikes(x2)

1. A Chinese researcher claimed to make the world's first genetically edited babies. (True)

He Jiankui, a Chinese scientist, shocked the medical community in November 2018 when he said that he used a powerful technique called CRISPR on a human embryo to edit the genes of twin girls with the intention of protecting the girls against HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. he altered the DNA of twin girls born earlier this month to try to help them resist possible future infection with the AIDS virus — a 1) _____ goal, ethically and scientifically, which 2) _____ widespread backlash from medical and bioethics experts. Many scientists expressed concerns about possible unintended side effects of the genetic changes that could be passed down to future generations. The closed court found *He Jiankui* guilty of illegal medical practice by knowingly violating the country's regulations and sentenced him to three years in prison.



2. Same sex mice gave birth to healthy pups. (True)



Baby-making science has crossed a new 3) _____, at least in rodents. A team of scientists in China has managed to 4) _____ mice with same-sex parents using a breakthrough technique involving 5) _____ cells and gene editing. Researchers at the Chinese Academy of Science have produced healthy mice with two mothers, who were then able to go on to reproduce themselves. Mice with two fathers were also born during the study, but only survived for a matter of hours.

3. Mushrooms and other fungi can produce and hear ultrasonic sound. (False)

Do mushrooms talk to each other? A new study, published in the journal *Royal Society Open Science*, suggests that they do, through the use of electrical signals – and that their language is complex. In observing the 6) _____ of electrical activity in particular species of fungi, computer scientist Andrew Adamatzky at the University of the West of England found patterns that were 7) _____ human language. Through experiments, he translated the 8) _____ into a lexicon of 50 'words'. The electrical signals responded to changes in the environment such as food and injury. Decoding the language of fungi could do a lot to help us understand changes in the environment. Fungi could report changes in soil quality, water purity, pollution, or any other features of the environment that they are sensitive to.

