

Meat Without Animals: The Future of Food?

Imagine eating a hamburger that did not come from a cow. No farms, no slaughterhouses — just real meat, made in a lab. This is not science fiction. It's called *lab-grown meat*, or cultivated meat, and it may change the future of food.



Scientists grow this meat from animal *cells*. The process takes place in a clean laboratory, using special *equipment*. The final product looks and tastes like real meat — because it is real meat. The first lab-grown meat burger was created in the Netherlands in 2013, and it cost about \$300,000 to produce. Today, prices have dropped a lot. In 2020, Singapore became the first country to approve the sale of lab-grown meat. In 2023, two companies in the U.S. got *permission* to sell lab-grown chicken in restaurants. One dish cost about \$10, still more expensive than regular chicken, but much cheaper than before.

Why is this important? Traditional meat production uses a lot of land, water, and energy. It also creates *pollution* and raises *animal welfare* concerns. Lab-grown meat could help reduce these problems. It doesn't require raising or killing animals, and it can be made in cities, close to where people live.

However, there are still *challenges*. Producing this meat is *expensive* and slow. Many people feel unsure about eating food made in a lab. Will it taste the same? Is it safe? Will people accept it?

Lab-grown meat is not in supermarkets yet. But with better technology and lower prices, it might become part of our everyday meals in the near future.



Match the word and its meaning

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| a) Lab-grown meat | 1. real meat made in a laboratory from animal cells, not from animals on farms |
| b) Cells | 2. tools and machines used to do a job or experiment |
| c) Equipment | 3. a problem or difficulty that needs to be solved |
| d) Permission | 4. the tiny parts that make up animals and people |
| e) Pollution | 5. costing a lot of money. |
| f) Animal welfare | 6. official approval to do something |
| g) Challenge | 7. dirty or harmful things in the air, water, or land that hurt the environment |
| h) Expensive | 8. taking care of animals and making sure they are safe and healthy |

Read the text again. Fill in the gaps in this summary:

cells welfare cost slaughterhouse permission pollution

- Lab-grown meat is made from animal _____.
- It doesn't need a _____ to produce meat.
- It's better for animal _____.
- It causes less _____.
- One challenge is the high _____.

Multiple choice questions:

1. What is one big reason why lab-grown meat is not yet common in stores?

- A) People don't like the taste
- B) It is still expensive to produce
- C) It spoils too quickly
- D) It is illegal everywhere

2. Where was the first lab-grown meat burger made?

- A) Singapore
- B) The United States
- C) The Netherlands
- D) China

3. How is lab-grown meat made?

- A) By freezing animal meat
- B) By growing animal cells in special equipment
- C) By cooking meat in a laboratory
- D) By mixing vegetables and meat powder

4. What is one benefit of lab-grown meat?

- A) It tastes better than regular meat
- B) It helps reduce air pollution
- C) It is cheaper than farm meat
- D) It grows on plants

5. Why do some people support lab-grown meat?

- A) Because it uses no water
- B) Because it helps animals and the planet
- C) Because it grows in gardens
- D) Because it's the only food in the future