

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