@learningtips9872



1 Every ..... thing has genes.
2 Genetic engineers put duck genes into chickens to make the chickens ..... .
3 The effects of genetic engineering on our health are not ..... .
4 The engineers may create life forms – monsters – that we cannot ..... .
5 Greenpeace is trying to ..... all such food experiments.
6 Genetic engineering could be the solution to the ..... of famine.

You didn't ask for it, and you might not know about it. But you've probably already eaten some of it. It's **genetically engineered** food.

Perfectly round tomatoes all exactly the same size, long straight cucumbers and big fat chickens are now a normal part of our diets. They are made that way by genetic engineering – not by **nature.** Their **genes** have been changed.

Every living thing has genes. 0 B They are passed on from **generation** to generation. They make sure that humans **give birth** to humans and cows give birth to cows. They also make sure that a dog cannot give birth to a frog, or an elephant to a horse. Genetic engineers take genes from one species – for example, a scorpion, and **transfer** them to another – for example, corn. In this way a new life form is **created.** 1

Genetic engineers put **duck** genes into chickens to make the chickens bigger. They put hormones into cows to make them produce more milk. They put genes from flowers into soya **beans** and from scorpions into corn. This does not make them cheaper, tastier or healthier. It makes them easier and faster for the farmer to grow.

The **effects** of genetic engineering on our health are not known. Many of the genes which are used – such as those of scorpions, **rats**, mice and **moths** – are not part of our diet so we do not know how dangerous they may be. For example, people can develop allergies to food which has been genetically engineered.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

@learningtips9872



The effects of genetic engineering on the natural world may be disastrous. The engineers may create life forms – monsters – that we cannot control. The new life forms have no natural habitat or home. They will have to find one, **fight** for one – or kill for one. 2 [ ] Moreover, the effects of these experiments can often be cruel. In America, pigs were given human genes to make them bigger and less fatty. 3 [ ] The pigs became very ill and began to lose their **eyesight.**

Greenpeace is trying to **prevent** all such food experiments. Some – but not all – food companies are refusing to use genetically engineered foods. 4 [ ] We must all be aware of what is happening.

Some people believe, though, that genetic engineering could be the solution to the problem of famine. Plants which grow faster, or cows which produce more milk, can save the lives of **starving** people.

We would all like a better, healthier and longer life, and genetic engineering might give us this. On the other hand, it may be a dangerous experiment with nature. In the story, Frankenstein created such a terrible and dangerous monster that he had to **destroy** it. We must make sure that it remains a story – and no more than that.

A The experiment failed.
B Genes carry information.
C Some – but not all – supermarkets are telling their customers which foods are genetically engineered.
D It may be your land they fight for – or you that they kill.
E These new life forms have been described as a "real-life Frankenstein".

LIVEWORKSHEETS