

3D PRINTING: A WHOLE NEW WORLD

Most people today know about 3D printers. These are machines that “print” three-dimensional objects from a computer program. The objects are built using thousands of tiny little slices. The slices are layered together to form a solid object. At first,

5 3D printers only made small, simple plastic objects. But the technology behind them is improving every day. So, what will we be “printing” in the future?

New Ways to Make Food

Today, many people do not have enough food, but 3D printing
10 will soon be able to help. Scientists are creating new 3D-printed foods which could be given to people without food, such as those who have been through a disaster. 3D foods can be made with the vitamins and minerals that people need to be healthy using ingredients that are grown quickly and easily. For example,
15 different types of plants like algae and grass. These foods can also be designed so that they are easy to move and deliver.

New Ways to Build

There are places around the world where it is hard to find a clean and inexpensive place to live. In addition, a lot of natural
20 resources are used in traditional building. But scientists have found a way to build homes with the help of a huge 3D printer. These homes are cheaper but still strong, and produce less

waste. In China, an entire
3D-printed house was
25 made in one month. In
the future, all new homes
might be made with 3D
printers.

New Ways to Save Lives

30 The strangest and most
exciting area of 3D printing
could be medicine.

Today, we are able to
print medical equipment,
35 prosthetics, like artificial arms and legs, and even skin! But we
could do so much more. Take organs, for example. They're not
always available, so people often have to wait a long time for
one. But someday, doctors might be able to print out a new
lung for someone or even a new heart if the "ink" of a 3D printer
40 was made of cells.

Clearly the future of 3D printing is so much more than simple
plastic objects. Someday, 3D printing will likely be involved in
every part of our lives!



CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Go to the next page and answer the questions A-C based on the
reading.

A Which statement best describes the main idea of the article?

- a. 3D printing is a fun way to create small plastic objects.
- b. 3D printing can change the way we do many things.
- c. 3D printing is a technology that has been completely developed.

B Read the article again. Complete the sentences.

- 1. 3D-printed food can be made out of _____ like algae and grass.
- 2. 3D-printed houses are less _____ and produce less _____.
- 3. When 3D printers use _____ as the ink, they will be able to print _____ like a new lung or heart.
- 4. 3D printing will change _____ because it will help heal people.

C **FOCUS ON LANGUAGE** Reread lines 5-7 in the article. Think about the words *behind* and *"printing"*. Then answer the questions.

- 1. What does the word *behind* mean in this sentence? _____

- 2. Why is the word *"printing"* in quotation marks? What does it mean in this sentence?
