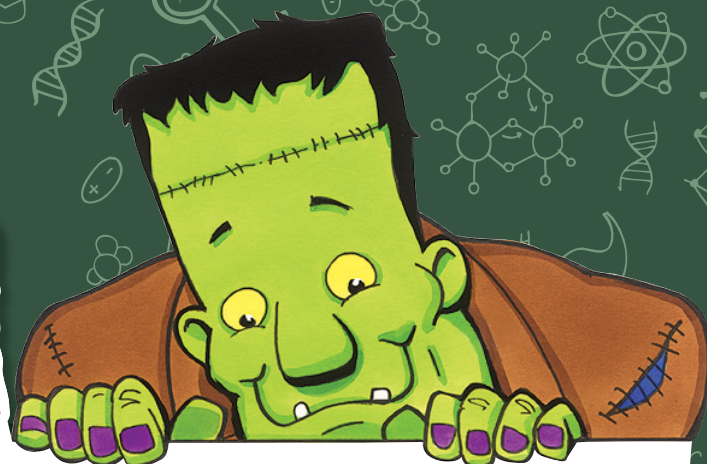


Goodies

The fear of Frankenfood



Why has my skin turned green? Have I eaten something wrong?



THESE fruits look fresh and tasty, but are they really safe to eat? The answer is debatable if they are genetically modified (GM) foods. Some call GM produce 'Frankenfood' after the monster in the novel *Frankenstein*, and claim that such food will harm us.

Editor's Note

Hi! The novel *Frankenstein* is a story about a scientist who wants to play God and create a human being but it turns out to be a disaster. In real life, should humans change nature by creating genetically modified food? If we can change food today then one day scientists might discover how to change the human body. Maybe one day in future we might not have children and just create clones of ourselves. That is really scary! Turn to G02 to learn more about the harmful effects of GM food. Over on G05 is a poem about a scary tiger written by a primary student. It is simple to read but her words are powerful. Why not try writing a poem and send it to us so that we can print it for everyone to read.



Simon

MILLIONS of people have eaten GM

food. GM tomatoes, for example, have had their genes **altered** to stop them from going soft while they are growing. For several years they were widely made into tomato **paste**.

The GM foods we eat have all been tested for safety. But many people are still afraid that they could be bad for us in ways we do not yet understand. Because of protests against GM foods, many shops have stopped selling them.

Fears over GM food safety

THERE are other reasons why some people worry about such foodstuffs. One is that new **combinations** of genes might lead to unexpected changes. A carrot modified to grow bigger, for example, might also be **poisonous**. Growing GM crops could harm the environment too if they make some insect species extinct.

Why don't we ban GM foods?

THERE are millions of people around the world who do not have enough to eat. This often happens when their crops are eaten by pests, or **fail** due to poor soil or lack of rain. GM crops designed to resist pests or survive in thin, dry soil might help solve such problems and prevent **famines**.

IS GM food sold in Hong Kong?

THERE are many GM food items in Hong Kong. Unfortunately, we are not quite certain what they all are. But if you love snacking, then beware — many snacks including potato crisps contain ingredients that have been genetically modified. The next time you go to a supermarket, pay more attention to the nutrient labels.

We must also develop our critical thinking skills to avoid being fooled by tricky advertisements. Discuss with your parents about GM foods and you can even invite your mum and dad to investigate the food sold in Hong Kong. We all have the right to know what we put into our mouth, do we not?