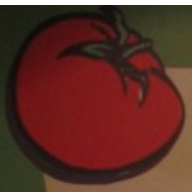


Group member: 4A Wong Hiu Fan 4D Lau Wai Man

## A Meaningful Day

We went to Health Centre on Life Wide Learning Day. It is a two-story building. There are some exhibitions and games which tell us the safety of food and our living environment will affect on individual's health. The part of the Health Centre we like to visit is the small library. We can know more about the different aspects of health in detail since there are some old news about health. Moreover, we can find some hot topics which are related to health, so it is useful for us to collect information about health. After this activity, we both think that we should pay more attention on the food we eat, such as the things and chemicals they contain, etc. Otherwise, our health may be seriously influenced.





# Genetically Modified Food

## What are genes?

Genes, made of DNA (Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid), are hereditary units which carry the required information to produce proteins in the cells that determine the characteristics of an organism. Plants and animals, from which food are produced, have thousands of genes in their cells.

## Where do genetically modified food come from?

Centuries ago, farmers had made use of traditional cross-breeding methods to produce grains and plants which were bigger, tastier or easier to grow. Nowadays, scientists are trying to identify and modify genes which controlled the specific characteristics of plants and animals through the development of modern biotechnology. With the help of biotechnology, genes can be selectively and precisely inactivated, or transferred from one organism to another to produce the so-called genetically modified (GM) organisms.



## How long have GM food been on the market?

Modern biotechnology was first applied to food production in the '90s. The first GM whole food, FLAVRSAVR™ tomato, was marketed in the United States in 1994.

## Which countries are the major producers of GM food?

The major producer of GM crops / food is the United States, followed by Argentina and Canada.

## Differences between genetic modification and traditional cross-breeding

Traditional cross-breeding	Genetic modification
Thousands of genes are cross-bred at one time	Well-defined genes are isolated and transferred
Genes are usually transferred within the same species	Desired genes are introduced to another species
More time is needed for observation and natural selection to achieve the desired characteristics	Faster and less costly
	Desired changes can be achieved in one generation



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