

AXE 6

UNIT 19

SHORT CUT

FOOD (R)EVOLUTION

*Are GMOs the only solution
to food shortage?*



YOUR PROJECT

Write an article about GMOs for
your blog: "A Citizen can..." 📝



Au menu de cette unité :

DÉCOUVERTES CULTURELLES

- ❖ Les avantages et inconvénients des OGM
- ❖ La législation sur les OGM aux États-Unis et au Canada
- ❖ Les modes de culture alternatifs

OUTILS LINGUISTIQUES

- ❖ Les quantificateurs
- ❖ There is / there are

BEFORE CLASS!

Flash to watch!

Watch the trailer for the documentary
Seeds of Freedom (2012).

Be ready to talk about it in class!



① An Entrenched War of Opinions

Why are people so afraid of GMOs?

1 Agriculture and GMOs

A. Describe and compare the painting below and the photo of the farmer's family in Montana.

B. Identify on each picture the element that is the core of people's preoccupations.

C. Which picture appeals the most to you?

Why?



Bad Apple (*Genetically Modified Food*), Michael D'Antuono, 2015

HELP!

Nouns

- supporter ≠ opponent
- crops: *cultures*

Adjectives

- provocative
- bountiful = abundant
- fertile

Verbs & expressions

- advocate / promote the interests of
- defend /dɪfend/
- fight against sth = oppose sth
- support = uphold

Description tip

- The first picture shows that... whereas the second picture...

Cultural facts

- Canada and the United States are two of the original six countries to begin planting GMO crops in 1996. The United States is the largest producer of genetically modified crops in the world, planting 39 per cent of the total global production.
- Michael D'Antuono is a controversial American artist whose paintings focus on socio-political issues.

② The Pros and Cons of GMOs

What are the arguments for and against GMOs in the US and Canada?

1 Building your opinion

You will study five documents (A → E) and build your opinion on GMOs.

A. Compare and discuss this set of documents. Turn to [Worksheet n°52](#) for help.

- B. What issues do they address?
- C. Are they impartial? Justify your answer.
- D. What means do they use to convey their message?

A

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISM

A GMO is a plant or animal whose structure has been changed scientifically.

CAN GMOs HELP PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT?



What are some of the benefits for the environment?

1 GMOs allow farmers

- to preserve the land while doing more with fewer resources.
- to increase crops yields on existing farmlands.

Crops are drought-tolerant.
Less deforestation.

2 By 2050, the population will rise by 30%.

- GMOs will provide the food, fuel and fiber we need with few resources.

3 Nutritionally enhanced food crops can improve global health

- GMO crops help address nutrition deficiency and food security around the world, e.g. "Golden rice" in Africa.

B SWITCHING CAMPS

A. Listen to Mark Lynas and say what you have learnt about his background and opinions.

B. Pick out the elements that made him change his mind.

C. Fill in the following sentence using what Lynas says in his interview:

He says that when he was..., the reason for his opinion was mostly..., whereas now that he is... the reason for his opinion is...."

D. How has this change been received by his former friends?

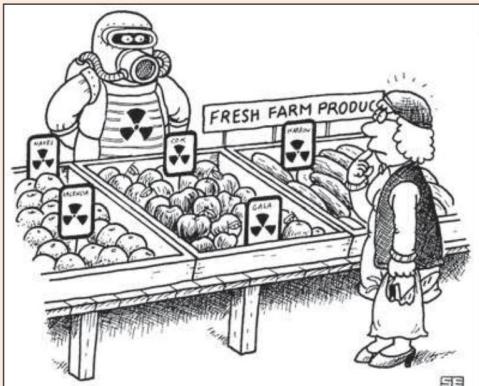
C FOOD EVOLUTION

VIDEO N°38



Watch the trailer for the documentary *Food Evolution* (2016) and take notes.

D

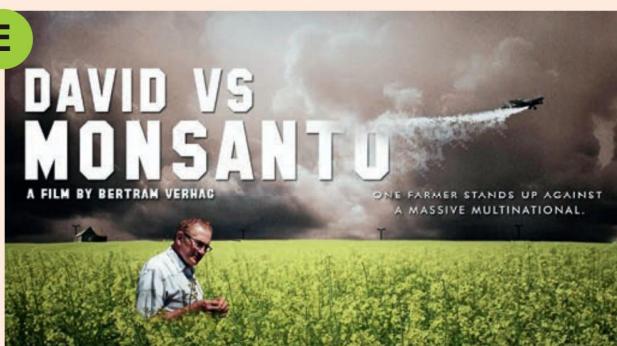


Stan Eales (American cartoonist)

Cultural fact

Pesticides are widely used in producing food to control pests (insects, rodents, weeds, bacteria and fungus). People who face the greatest health risks from exposure to pesticides are those who come into contact with them at work (gardeners, farmers...).

E



Percy Schmeiser: *David vs Monsanto*, Deukmal film

"No one should control nature, no one should control life. No one should have that right to put patents¹ on nature and life. As long as my wife and I have life within us, we will always go down fighting for the rights of farmers always to be able to use their seeds from year to year. No one should take that right away from anyone."

This is what the judge ruled. Number One:
If you are contaminated against your wishes by Monsanto's GMOs, you no longer own your seeds, your plants. They become the ownership of a cooperation, in this case Monsanto."

¹ un brevet (industriel)

Percy Schmeiser (Canadian farmer), 2009

YOUR TURN! 2 Debate time!

Pairwork. Prepare a set of flashcards with a colour code for each theme you identified. For example, use green for the environment. On one side, write one argument concerning GMOs, on the other side, its refutation. Prepare as many cards as necessary. Use your sets of flashcards to debate with your classmates.

HELP!

Tools

- While there's food for mankind there's hope for survival.
- Some advocates argue that GMOs protect the environment whereas opponents will say that GMOs kill diversity.

● The Future of GMOs

How are Canadians and Americans trying to find a middle ground?

1 Labelling GMOs

A. Look at the picture and describe it.

What is the demonstrators' demand?

B. Read the *Cultural fact*. Is the situation similar in all the English-speaking countries? What do you conclude?

C. **Have your say.** How do you feel about labelling GMOs? Justify your answer.

Cultural fact

Should labels on canned and prepared food mention that they contain genetically modified ingredients?

- Great Britain, New Zealand and Australia think so. Those countries think that consumers should know exactly what they put on their plates.

- The USA and Canada don't – food companies are allowed to do what they decide, so they can decide not to mention that their products contain GMOs. They base this law on the idea of substantial equivalence: if a normal potato is safe, then a genetically modified potato must be safe too.



2 Seeds of freedom

A. Read the article and explain in your own words what the project is about.

B. Why does Vandana Shiva call for civil disobedience?

C. **Have your say.** Would you like to participate in the Navdanya project? Why (not)?



In 1991, Shiva founded Navdanya, a movement which aims to protect nature and people's rights to knowledge, biodiversity, water and food. It does this by setting up community seed banks that generate livelihoods for local people and provide for basic needs.

Shiva, a scientist, philosopher, feminist, author, environmentalist and activist, explains why the two-week campaign on seed freedom against major corporations, which culminates on World Food Day later this month, is so important and the consequences of failure.

Shiva calls for civil disobedience, quoting Gandhi who said that "as long as the superstition that unjust laws must be obeyed exists, so will slavery exist". [...]

You refer to the toxicity and uniformity of the seeds from major corporations. What impact are their actions having on farmers and communities?

Last year we wrote a report, "The GMO Emperor has no Clothes", which pulled together the impact of GMO patented seeds across the world. The first impact is a seed monopoly and the disappearance of diversity. The second impact is increasing costs. The third impact is higher use of chemicals. The fourth impact is the denial to consumers of the right to know what they are eating. [...]

What can be done to prevent these companies from dominating the global seed supply?

Build a movement for seed freedom, to save seeds, to protect biodiversity, to reclaim farmers rights, to make patents on seed illegal, to roll back laws like the EU Seed Legislation that are criminalising farmers who use their own seeds.

, 2013

YOUR PROJECT

Write an article about GMOs for your blog "A Citizen can..."
Present the facts in the first part of your article, and your opinion in the second part. Use the documents studied in this unit to illustrate your arguments.

LANGUAGE LAB



- Unit's vocabulary
- Audio words
- MP3
- Interactive Test

- ★ 1. Put the verb in the present tense.**
- A. There (be) ... farmers who are not against GMOs.
 B. There (be) ... a label on every can.
 C. (be) ... there hope for organic agriculture?
 D. There (be) ... people who are very supportive of these issues.
 E. (be) ... there many opponents to Monsanto's policy?

★★ 2. Fill in the sentences with the appropriate quantifier.

- A. ... Canada and the U.S. believe that the labels you put on cans do not matter at all.
 B. ... farmers, though not all of them, are worried about a major food crisis.
 C. ... should remember that our food is vital for our health.
 D. ... of the farmers I met is worried about the future.
 E. ... single day, we learn terrible things about potential food-poisoning.

★★ 3. Fill in the blanks with one of these quantifiers.

the whole • all • all of

- A. ... planet is in danger.
 B. ... the seeds were contaminated.
 C. ... trial was a parody of justice.
 D. They tried to convince them
 E. ... them were convinced by her arguments.

★★ 4. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate word.

committed • seed • rousing • advocate • sustainable
 • disclosure • make shifts

Vandana Shiva is quite used to giving ... speeches to enthusiastic crowds. As an ... of ... saving, she encourages people to turn to ... methods of farming. She thinks it is time for full ... of the unethical processes of certain food corporations. She wants to ... so as to go towards a better future. She's totally ... to her cause.

★★★ 5. Write at least 5 sentences using the words above to sum up what each person presented in this unit thinks about GMOs.

6. Interactive Test! What is your score?

OPEN YOUR EARS!



PHONOLOGY

Les mots se terminant en *-ic*, *-ical* et *-ically*

• Écoutez attentivement l'audio et repérez les mots qui se terminent en *-ic*, *-ical* et *-ically*. Que remarquez-vous ? **MP3 n°104**



• Récapitulons

L'accent est toujours sur la syllabe qui précède *ic*. *Politics* est une exception.

AUDIO MYSTERY

Listen to the audio recording.

Have you memorised the sentence? **MP3 n°**



Picture challenge

★ 3 sentences

★★ 4 to 6 sentences

★★★ 7 sentences and +

How many sentences can you make using what you have learnt? Collect stars!

