

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. **Agriculture** is _____.
 - Ⓐ the practice of farming and raising livestock
 - Ⓑ the practice of creating genetically modified organisms
 - Ⓒ the practice of studying the effects of GMOs on the natural world
 - Ⓓ the practice of collecting and saving non-GMO seeds
2. What is the author's purpose for writing this book?
 - Ⓐ to persuade the reader to never purchase GMOs because they promote the destruction of the natural world
 - Ⓑ to inform the reader about the positive effects of GMOs on the profitability of farmers
 - Ⓒ to persuade the reader to petition the government to label foods containing GMOs
 - Ⓓ to inform the reader about the potential benefits and detriments of GMOs
3. How is the loss of seed variety due to GMO seed production being addressed?
 - Ⓐ New varieties of non-GMO plants are being developed without the help of scientists.
 - Ⓑ GMO seeds are being disposed of and only traditional seeds are being planted.
 - Ⓒ Seed banks are being created to collect and preserve traditional crop seeds along with the knowledge of the people who grew them.
 - Ⓓ Large groups of people are refusing to buy GMO crops and shopping only at farmer's markets.

Quick Check continued on following page

Name _____ Date _____

4. Which of the following details expresses an opinion?
 - Ⓐ In more than sixty countries, either GMOs have been banned until further study can prove them safe, or foods containing GMOs must be labeled.
 - Ⓑ Some businesses across the country, such as specialty grocery stores, have pledged to label any GMO foods they sell.
 - Ⓒ Labeling GMO products will only promote more fear and hinder development of new GMO products that might benefit people in the future.
 - Ⓓ Some scientists say that because GMO crops can be grown using fewer chemicals, they can make farming less harmful to the environment and food safer for human consumption.
5. Which word means *to take in food or some other substance*?
 - Ⓐ ignite
 - Ⓑ digest
 - Ⓒ ingest
 - Ⓓ integrate
6. Some scientists believe that the creation of a new kind of rice that produces vitamin A could help _____.
 - Ⓐ save the rapidly declining population of monarch butterflies
 - Ⓑ solve food shortages in undeveloped nations throughout the world
 - Ⓒ prevent blindness in places where people's diets lack vitamin A
 - Ⓓ cease the spread of airborne diseases that attack and destroy crops

Quick Check continued on following page

Name _____ Date _____

7. Which of the following is a fact from the section "GMOs in the Environment"?

- Ⓐ Bt toxins harm monarch larvae that hatch and feed on GMO plants.
- Ⓑ The monarch butterfly is a beneficial insect that pollinates crops and other plants.
- Ⓒ Crops engineered to kill "pest" insects will also kill helpful insects.
- Ⓓ Only experts can tell how GMOs affect the environment and nearby plants and animals.

8. What is the author's point of view on GMOs?

- Ⓐ There are both potential benefits and drawbacks to the creation and consumption of GMOs.
- Ⓑ Genetically modified foods should be illegal in the United States because of their detrimental nature to humans and to the environment.
- Ⓒ All farmers can benefit from planting only genetically modified seeds through increase crop yield.
- Ⓓ The consumption of GMOs is directly correlated to the rise of food allergies, particularly to soy, peanuts, eggs, and milk.

Quick Check continued on following page

Name _____ Date _____

9. To **assess** the effects of GMOs on humans, someone might _____.
 (A) grow his or her own crops
 (B) conduct unbiased research
 (C) move to another country
 (D) make changes to the genetic modifications
10. Some people believe the promotion of stronger GMO plants will cause _____.
 (A) vegetables to lose their flavor
 (B) a global food shortage
 (C) an increase in seed variety
 (D) an increase in crop yield
11. **Extended Response:** What are the some of the potential benefits of GMOs? What are some of the potential drawbacks? Use details from the text to support your response.
12. **Extended Response:** What problems exist among the research results gathered about the pros and cons of GMOs?

Quick Check Answer Sheet

Are GMOs Safe?

Main Comprehension Skill: Fact or Opinion

1. Ⓐ Vocabulary
2. Ⓓ Author's Purpose
3. Ⓒ Main Idea and Details
4. Ⓒ Fact or Opinion
5. Ⓒ Vocabulary
6. Ⓒ Problem and Solution
7. Ⓑ Fact or Opinion
8. Ⓐ Author's Point of View
9. Ⓑ Vocabulary
10. Ⓓ Cause and Effect
11. Students should use details from the text to state the benefits and drawbacks of GMOs including the following: *Pros: pest-resistant plants, increased crop production, increased profit for farmers, and so on. Cons: potentially harmful to the environment, plants, animals, and humans; less variety of seeds leading to increased risk of disease, and so on.*
12. Students should note that people debate whether studies on GMOs provide enough valid information. For example, opponents of GMOs claim that they have difficulties obtaining unbiased information because the companies that own genetically modified seeds stand to make a profit from GMO production. There are studies and research surrounding GMOs that support arguments both for and against.