
The meat of the future?

WORKSHEET A

According to scientists in the Netherlands, the steaks and hamburgers of the future could be made not from the flesh of cows but from artificial meat created in a laboratory.

Dr Mark Post from the University of Maastricht has already grown a small strip of artificial beef, about the size of a sticking plaster, using cells from a cow, and expects to have a whole artificial hamburger ready to eat in October. By then, so much time and money will have gone into the project that the burger would cost rather more than you'd expect to pay in your local McDonald's – at least \$300,000 in fact.

The scientists hope it will eventually be possible to produce artificial meat in huge quantities, and much more cheaply, from the cells of only a small number of animals. If they are successful a single cow could theoretically produce a million times more beef than it does at present.

The environmental benefits could be enormous. Worldwide meat production uses up a huge amount of land (not just for farm animals to live on but also to produce the food they eat), and by 2050, when the global population might have risen to nine billion, it will probably be impossible for people to eat as much meat on average as we do now – unless, that is, a way is found to produce it using far fewer natural resources.

Lab-grown meat is also an attractive prospect for anyone interested in animal rights, offering the possibility of a world in which fewer animals are raised for slaughter.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Here are some simple definitions for words that appear in the text on Worksheet A. Find the words they refer to and fill in the gaps.

1. To **__ __ se** (verb) a farm animal means to keep it and feed it so that it grows.
2. **_ l _ s _** (noun): the soft part of people's or animals' bodies that consists mostly of muscle and fat
3. **b _ _ _ _ i _** (noun): an advantage you get from a situation
4. **_ _ bo _ _ _ _ _** (noun): a building or large room where people do scientific and medical experiments or research
5. **_ _ _ ck _ _ _ p _ _ _ t _ _** (or, for short, just **p _ _ _ t _ _**) (noun, British English): a thin piece of cloth or plastic that is sticky on one side, and that you could put on your skin to cover a cut. The American word is *Band-Aid*[®].
6. **_ la _ _ h _ _ _** (noun): the killing of animals, usually for their meat
7. **t _ _ o _ _ _ _ _ l _ _** (adverb): used for saying that something could be true or could exist, but we cannot be certain
8. **_ _ _ _ k** (noun): the meat from a cow, especially a piece without fat that is high in quality
9. **_ _ _** (noun): short for *laboratory*
10. **_ _ _ u _ _ _ _ e _ _ u _ _ _ _** (noun): valuable substances such as wood, oil and water that exist in a country's land and sea

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 2

Most of the text from Worksheet A has been copied below, but now contains some mistakes. Twelve of the words in bold are incorrect, and four are correct. Decide which are incorrect and correct them.

According to scientists in the (1) **Nederlands**, the steaks and hamburgers of the future could be made not from the flesh of cows but from artificial meat created in a (2) **laboratory**.

Dr Mark Post from the University of Maastricht has already grown a small (3) **trip** of artificial beef – about the size of a sticking plaster – using (4) **sells** from a cow, and expects to have a (5) **hole** artificial hamburger ready to eat in October. By then, so much time and money will have gone into the project that the burger would cost rather more than you'd expect to pay in your local McDonald's – at least \$300,000 in fact.

The scientists hope it will (6) **eventual** be possible to produce artificial meat in huge quantities, and much more cheaply, from the cells of only a small number of animals. If they are (7) **successfull** a single cow could theoretically produce a million times more beef than it does (8) **at** present.

The (9) **environmental** benefits could be enormous. Worldwide meat production uses up a huge amount of land (not just for (10) **farming** animals to live on but also to produce the food they eat), and by 2050, when the global population might have (11) **rose** to nine billion, it will probably be impossible for people to eat as much meat (12) **on** average as we do now – unless, that is, a way is found to produce it using far fewer natural (13) **recourses**.

Lab-grown meat is also an (14) **attraction** prospect for anyone interested in (15) **animal's** rights, offering the possibility of a world in which (16) **less** animals are raised for slaughter.