



Classroom Activity

10 Big Question: What is Life?

The Great GM Debate

The use of GM crops is a hot topic around the world. In this activity you will investigate the position of an interested party and participate in a group role play to debate its pros and cons.

Take up the role of one of the following groups:

- > Organic farmer
- > Pro-GM farmer
- > Plant breeder
- > Consumer
- > Environmental activist
- > Nutritionist
- > Pesticide company representative
- > Agricultural sales person

Research and establish your position. The 'useful websites' resource in 'Agrobacterium: Transforming the plant world' (e-Science issue 9, May 2014) is a good place to start for research sources. Present your position on GM crops to the group and/or write a 'submission' lobbying for your position.

You may like to brainstorm some questions particular to your position before beginning your research. Here are some to get you started:

- > Do GM foods hurt us in any way?
- > Can GM crops have any adverse effects on the environment?
- > Can GM crops get out into the wild?
- > What kinds of benefits do GM crops provide?
- > Should companies tell you if they use GM crops in food products?
- > How prevalent are GM crops and foods around the world?
- > How has the media reported on GM food?
- > How does society decide whether to use a new technology?