

## WORKSHOP OVERVIEW | SCIENCE VS GMOS PODCAST



### Overview:

In this activity, students will listen in two parts to a podcast by Science VS about GMOs. This podcast investigates whether GMOs are helpful or harmful by diving into both sides of the GMO debate. This episode references infamous GMO studies and calls upon the expertise of a few scientists. Following both parts of the episode, students will participate in a class discussion to sort through the pros and cons of GMOs!

**Activity Duration:** 1.5 - 2 hours

### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- *What are GMOs?*
- *Are GMOs helpful or harmful to humans and the environment?*
- *What is the benefit of using GMOs as our climate changes?*

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- *Speaker or smart-board for playing the podcast*
- *Discussion question templates*
- *Writing utensils*



### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Hand out discussion question templates to students to allow them to take notes while they listen to the podcast.
2. Listen to part 1 of the podcast and take notes on the template.
3. Have a 15-20 minute discussion using the following questions:
  - a. After listening to a few studies get debunked, what is your stance on GMOs?
  - b. Even though the two studies our host talks about were debunked, do you think it's possible that genetically modified crops could cause unintended effects on animals, including humans? Why or why not?
  - c. At the end of this section, our host mentions that fields of genetically modified crops have more biodiversity, or variety and quantity, of insects. Why do you think this might be?
4. Listen to part 2 of the podcast and take notes on the template.
5. Have a 15-20 minute discussion using the following questions:
  - a. What benefits could come from planting GMOs?
  - b. What are the drawbacks of using either insect-resistant GMOs or herbicide-resistant GMOs?
  - c. After hearing both sides of the GMO debate, where do you stand? What do you think the future of GMOs might look like?



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | SCIENCE VS GMOS PODCAST

### PART 1 | 00:00-24:38

Take notes on the following questions as you listen to the first half of the podcast:

1. After listening to a few studies get debunked, what is your stance on GMOs?

2. Even though the two studies our host talks about were debunked, do you think it's possible that genetically modified crops could cause unintended effects on animals, including humans? Why or why not?

3. At the end of this section, our host mentions that fields of genetically modified crops have more biodiversity, or variety and quantity, of insects. Why do you think this might be?

### PART 2 | 24:38-42:36

Take notes on the following questions as you listen to the second half of the podcast:

1. What benefits could come from planting GMOs?

2. What are the drawbacks of using either insect-resistant GMOs or herbicide-resistant GMOs?

3. After hearing both sides of the GMO debate, where do you stand? What do you think the future of GMOs might look like?

