



What is CRISPR?

CRISPR is a prominent and important genome-editing tool with potential uses to combat such diseases as cancer and sickle cell anemia. Might it also lead to designer babies? CRISPR's relatively low cost is leading to questions about its potential use. These resources share recent information about CRISPR.

Read

“The Gene Hackers” by Michael Specter from *The New Yorker*
<https://goo.gl/Zvyffg>

This 2015 article provides an overview of CRISPR, covering historical developments related to DNA as well as what technologies like CRISPR can mean for big business, medicine, and science.

“A New Technique That Lets Scientists Edit DNA Is Transforming Science—and Raising Difficult Questions” by Alice Park from *TIME Health*

<http://time.com/4379503/crispr-scientists-edit-dna/>

This article delves into the ethical concerns related to CRISPR and includes perspectives from several science and research institutes.

Listen

“Update: CRISPR” from *Radiolab*
<http://www.radiolab.org/story/update-crispr/>

Radio show and podcast *Radiolab* combines its initial episode about CRISPR from nearly two years ago with an update on recent developments. Listeners hear from scientists involved in the discovery of the genome-editing tool.



Watch

“What You Need to Know about CRISPR” by Ellen Jorgensen from TEDSummit

<https://goo.gl/fPuMBw>

The summary of this talk lays it all out when it comes to considering the implications of CRISPR: “Should we bring back the woolly mammoth? Or edit a human embryo? Or wipe out an entire species that we consider harmful? The genome-editing technology CRISPR has made extraordinary questions like these legitimate—but how does it work? Scientist and community lab advocate Ellen Jorgensen is on a mission to explain the myths and realities of CRISPR, hype-free, to the nonscientists among us.”

“How the Science of CRISPR Can Change Your Genes” from *TIME Health*

<http://time.com/4377130/crispr-genome-editing/>

This short animation explains how CRISPR works and illustrates an example of gene editing in action.

Reflect and Share

1. What ethical considerations are associated with gene editing?
2. Who should control medical technologies like CRISPR?
3. Who should be allowed to use medical technologies like CRISPR?