

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

STORY

President Obama Lifts Controversial Restrictions on Stem Cell Research, 3/10/2009

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/science/jan-june09/stemcells_03-10.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What did President Obama do recently regarding stem cell research?

2. How do scientists use embryonic stem cells?

3. Why do some people object to stem cell research?

4. What are stem cells?

5. How are embryonic stem cells different from adult stem cells?

6. What organization is responsible for coming up with guidelines for government-funded research?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. Do you agree with President Obama's decision to lift the restrictions on embryonic stem cell research?

2. Some opponents of stem cell research think experimenting with embryos raises all sorts of ethical questions about human cloning. Why might a medical researcher want to make a human clone?

3. If you were the National Institutes of Health, what guidelines would you write for embryonic stem cell research?

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.