

# 3D PRINTING FOOD – THE MODERN PROMETHEUS?

*Read the following text and answer the questions below.*

Growing environmental awareness and a belief that organic food is better for the consumer might seem to suggest that the introduction of a new form of processed food would not be a success. Consumers in Europe and the United States have demonstrated an unwillingness to consume genetically modified organism (GMO) vegetables or fruit. Some commentators have claimed that this stems from the powerful imagery created by Mary Shelley's warning tale of interference with the "natural order" of things in the classic book, Frankenstein. Meaningfully, while claims of "Franken-foods" go unchallenged, few care to recall the alternative title of Shelley's masterpiece, "The Modern Prometheus". We might do well to remember how in Ancient Greece, Prometheus was a champion of humankind and through his gift of technology, humanity was said to have flourished. Indeed, public opinion runs counter to the majority of academic studies that show no harm is present due to the use of transgenic crops. However, perception is more important than reality in certain circumstances.

Presented in this light it might seem that 3D printing will face a hard struggle to achieve acceptance once the initial novelty has worn off.

1. What are GMOs vegetables and fruits?
2. Who wrote Frankenstein?
3. What foods do you think the term "Frankenfoods" refers to?
4. Do you know who the mythological Prometheus was and what he did for humankind?
5. Do academic studies and public opinion share the same position about transgenic crops?
6. Would you accept or refuse 3D printed food?