

Science Time

Program Content for October 7, 2015

Read the article “UW’s quiet fetal-tissue lab affected by national uproar” on page B1 of the Sunday, October 4, 2015 edition of The Seattle Times.

Pre-reading and Vocabulary: Define each term and then use it in a sentence to demonstrate your understanding.

1. fetus
2. tissue
3. miscarriage
4. stem cell
5. ethical

Comprehension Questions

1. What is the Birth Defects Research Laboratory at the University of Washington?
2. What tissues are collected at the lab?
3. Why are the tissues collected from the lab important?
4. Why are fetal cells prized for some types of research?
5. Can fetal cells be sold for profit? Explain.
6. What is teratology?
7. What impact have the videos released by an anti-abortion group had on the Birth Defects research lab?
8. What is one reason why the number of tissue samples donated to the research lab have declined?
9. How does the amount of money spent on fetal tissue research compare to research on stem cells?
10. Why do some scientists feel the need for fetal-tissue research is in decline?

Prompts and Extensions

1. [Read about and watch](#) parts of Cecile Richard’s Planned Parenthood testimony.
2. What do you think? Based on your reading of this article do you think it is appropriate to use fetal tissue for scientific research? Support your opinion from what you read or outside research you complete.
3. Read this [article](#) from Time magazine online that argues for the continued need for fetal-tissue research. The article also includes links to the anti-abortion videos at the center of this past summer’s controversy with Planned Parenthood and a video of Planned Parenthood’s rebuttal.

Science Time is posted to the Web on Wednesdays. Please share this NIE Science Time program with other teachers. To sign-up for the electronic edition for your class, please register

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