



# READ A SCIENCE ARTICLE

The environment, space, animals, genetics—science topics are fascinating but can be challenging! To help you better understand science articles, use the reading strategies on this page. Practice by using them to read the article below. Then answer the questions.

Read the introduction to help you identify the main idea of the article.

## SCIENTISTS ALTER A MONKEY'S GENES TO HELP FIGHT HUMAN DISEASE

Read the title to find out what the article is about. Ask yourself, What do I already know about this topic?

ANDi is mostly monkey, but a small part jellyfish. He looks like a rhesus monkey but has unique DNA, chemical "letters" that make each living creature what it is. Every cell of his body contains a jellyfish gene. A gene is a section of DNA that contains special instructions for the cells. When ANDi was just an egg, researchers at Oregon Health Sciences University changed part of his DNA using genetic modification.

Subtitles can help focus your reading.

### WHY A JELLYFISH GENE?

Reread new or difficult words. Look for clues in the sentence that explain their meaning.

The researchers used a jellyfish gene as a test to see if it was possible to change the DNA of a monkey. Rhesus monkeys share about 95 percent of their genes with humans. Our DNA contains about 30,000 genes. Some genes cause diseases such as cancer and diabetes. Scientists want to use genetic modification to create monkeys with these diseases. This way, they can test new medicines to fight them.

If a word or phrase stumps you, look it up in the dictionary!

### A BAD IDEA?

Many people feel that the genetic modification of animals is wrong, no matter what the benefits. They believe it's unethical to give an animal a disease. —By Dina Maasar

After you read an article, try explaining it in your own words.

What is the main idea of the article?

What is another headline that could be used for this article?

Why do you think this article is important to read?

What's one question you would ask the scientists who created ANDi?

BONUS: On the back of this page list three places where you can find science articles.