**Vocabulary: GMOs and the Environment**



**Vocabulary**

* Genetically modified organism (GMO) – an organism whose genetic material has been altered using genetic engineering techniques.
* Types of genetically modified crops include corn, soybeans, and cotton genetically modified to be resistant to insects and tolerant to herbicide.
* Herbicide – a *pesticide* used to kill unwanted weeds.
	+ Pesticides are substances that kill organisms that are harmful to crops.
* Insecticide – a pesticide used to kill unwanted insects.
* Pesticide – any substance used to destroy or repel pests.
* Insecticide and herbicide are types of pesticides.
* Refuge field – a field where normal corn (sensitive to insects) is grown to help prevent resistance development.
* Insects are able to grow and reproduce in the refuge field without being under the selective pressure that the main field, growing insect-resistant corn, is under.
* Sensitive insects from the refuge field mate with resistant insects from the main field, creating sensitive offspring and limiting the size of the resistant population.
* Resistance – the ability of an organism to remain unaffected by a harmful agent in the environment.
* The GM corn in this Gizmo were modified to become resistant to insects and tolerant of herbicide.
* A population of resistant insects develops through natural selection.
	+ In a population of insects exposed to a lethal toxin, the majority of the insects will die. A small number of insects may be naturally immune to the toxin. Under continued selective pressure, all the sensitive insects will die and the resistant insects will multiply, creating a population or resistant insects.