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NICE GENES!

a podcast by
Genome
British Columbia

learn-a-long

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world of genomics.

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for you to follow and
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on the go!

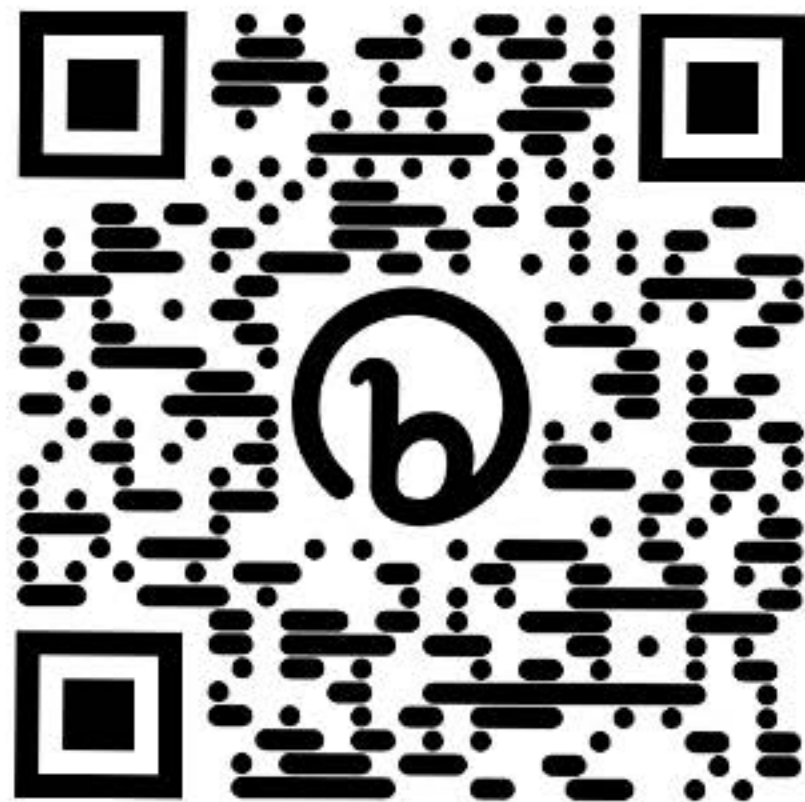
Season 3

episode II Bananageddon

..is the world running
out of bananas?



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What is a food you cannot live without?

Where does it come from?

How do you think humans have influenced the genomes of the food you have chosen?

Why are bananas so important as a food source?



①

②

What power did La Gros Michel have in the late 1800s and early 1900s?

What disease posed a threat to this banana?

What type of banana replaced it?



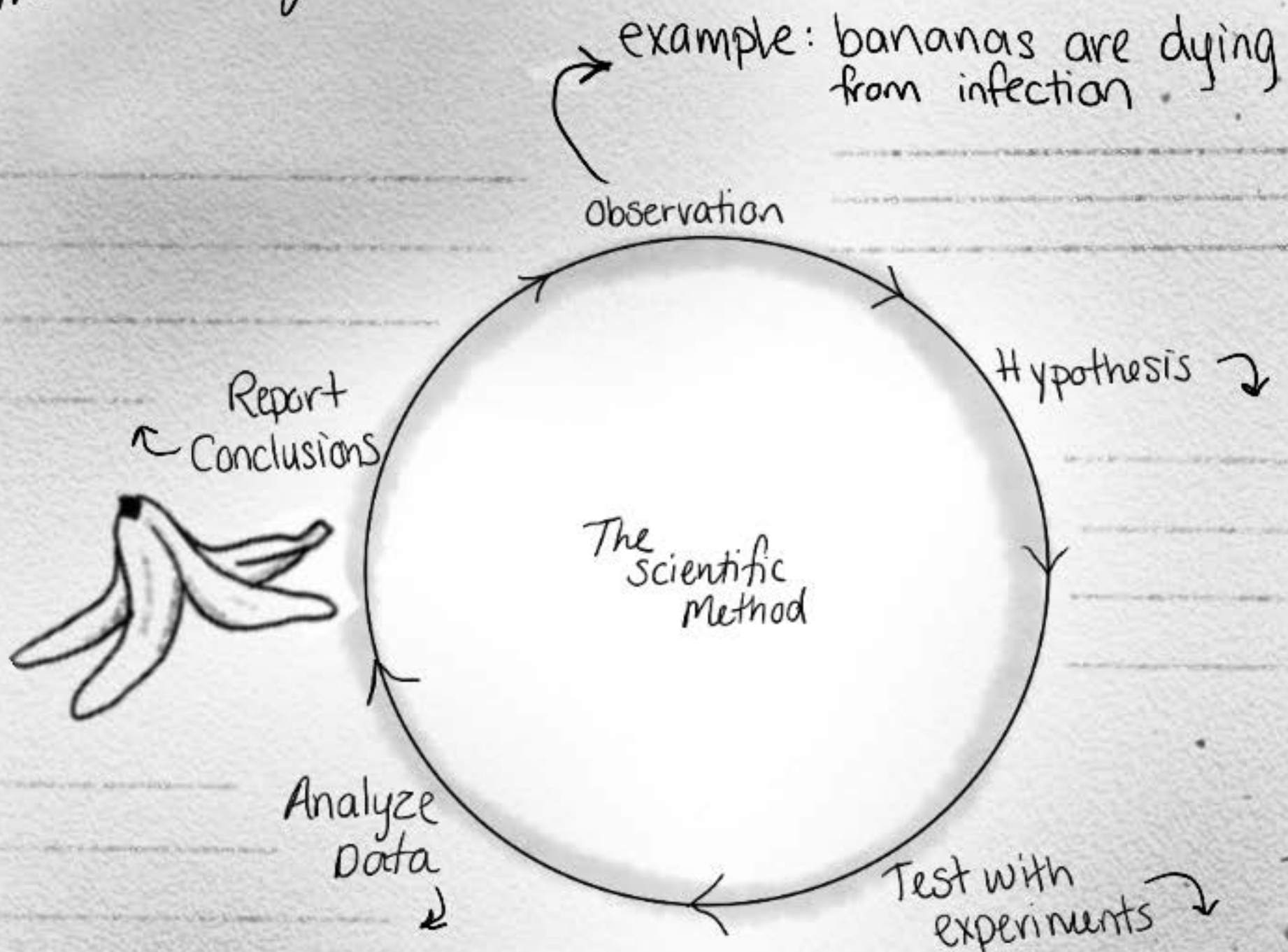
Musa acuminata
La Gros Michel
"Big Mike"

A

Although the Cavendish banana might seem lucky, there is something posing a threat to the beloved banana! What is the threat? Why is it a threat? Hint: use 'genetic diversity' to explain your answer.

How can the science of genomics help the world's banana sources?

How did the farmers in Australia carry out their banana-saving experiment? Put the steps they took into the framework of the scientific method.



What do you think?

Do you support the genetic modification of bananas to avoid bananageddon?
Explain each answer.

① Would you eat one?

② Do you support this technology in your country?

③ Will the genetic modification of bananas help the planet?

monoculture

one

crop

List 2 pros and 2 cons of monoculture

PRO

CON

BONUS: circle one from each column

1) Banana plants are

(a) Trees

(b) Palms

(c) Herbs

2) Banana fruit are:

(a) Berries

(b) Nuts

(c) Pomes

Answer: 1) c 2) a