

A gene-editing medicine is approved

2023 | Grade 4 · Explain with evidence

Words to know

research — careful study to find out more

care — attention and help for someone or something

evidence — information that helps support or question a claim

Look closely



Modern topic illustration created for Massachusetts History Explorers. It is not a historical artifact.

Read the story

U.S. regulators approved the first treatment using CRISPR gene editing. Massachusetts companies helped develop it for certain patients with sickle cell disease. The approval marked an important medical step.

Casgevy, developed by Vertex and CRISPR Therapeutics, received FDA approval in December 2023. Approval does not mean a treatment is suitable or accessible for everyone. This is history, not medical advice.

Think, talk, and show evidence

1. State the main idea. Support it with two details from the reading.
2. Explain a change or challenge described in the text. Which words support your answer?
3. Use one vocabulary word in a new sentence about this event.
4. What can the image and caption help explain? What can they not tell you?

Follow-up reading: Maura Healey becomes governor

2023

Maura Healey took office as Massachusetts' first elected woman governor. Jane Swift had earlier served as acting governor. Healey's election was also a milestone for openly lesbian leadership.

Healey and Oregon's Tina Kotek were elected in 2022 as the first openly lesbian governors in the United States. Distinguish election from taking office and avoid erasing earlier acting governors.

Compare the two readings. Explain one similarity or difference using a detail from each. Their order does not prove that one caused the other.

Teacher guide & source trail

Original classroom adaptation. Suggested reading levels are instructional choices, not standardized readability certifications. Use professional judgment and learner feedback.

ELA practice: RI.4.1: refer to details; RI.4.2: main idea and summary; RI.4.3: explain events; RI.4.7: interpret visual information; W.4.2 and SL.4.1: explain and discuss.

These tasks support selected skills in the [Massachusetts 2017 ELA framework](#); they do not establish mastery of an entire standard.

Answer guidance

Factual anchor: U.S. regulators approved the first treatment using CRISPR gene editing. Massachusetts companies helped develop it for certain patients with sickle cell disease. The approval marked an important medical step. Casgevy, developed by Vertex and CRISPR Therapeutics, received FDA approval in December 2023. Approval does not mean a treatment is suitable or accessible for everyone. This is history, not medical advice.

Accept accurate main ideas and explanations supported by the text. Vocabulary meanings are in the opening word bank. For picture questions, use the caption and credit below; distinguish what is visible from what is inferred. For comparison, accept a specific connection supported by both readings. Do not require personal accounts of trauma.

Continue the inquiry

[Research source for this event ↗](#)

[Research source for follow-up ↗](#)

[Event page, accessible HTML reading, and vocabulary game ↗](#)

Image: Original site illustration.

[Image source and rights record ↗](#)

The PDF contains selectable English text and embedded fonts. For adjustable text and browser reading tools, use the event's [HTML page](#). External sources may need adult guidance.