

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Should We Create Babies By Design?

At one end of the spectrum of public opinion is the view that any explicit manipulation of human biology is undesirable. Whether or not this philosophy has merit, it is operationally moot. For millennia, humans intentionally have altered our external and internal bodily environments in ways that influence health ... Some of the first languages uttered by primitive peoples probably included words describing particular plants and animals perceived to be sources of desirable medicinal products.”

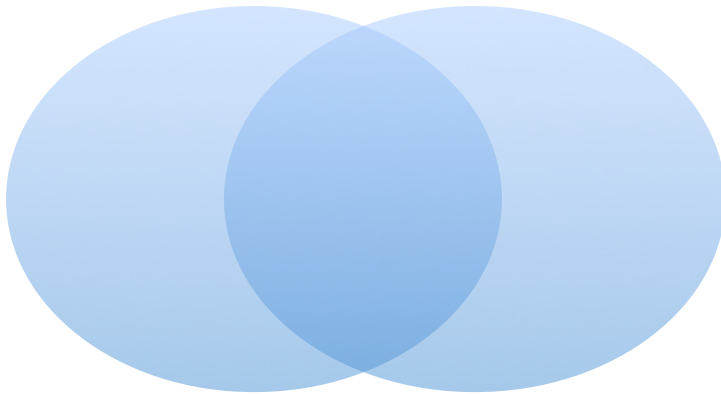
--John Avise, *The Genetic Gods*, 1998



Use the following website to answer the questions below:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/evolution/humans/babies/>

1. Describe your reaction to the quote above. What do you think?
2. Birth control already influences how couples control their reproduction and heredity. How will new techniques to screen for and alter genes be a shift the fate of our species?
3. Tay-sacs and systic fibrosis are two very different diseases. Describe how they are different and how they are similar in at Venn Diagram below.



4. What was the The American Eugenics Society?

5. Who should set guidelines for the development and application of this technology? Should any limits be imposed at all?