Questions

Name two countries that have governmental regulations that help the movement of Eugenics. What are “designer babies?”
Definition of Eugenics

"Eugenics is the science which deals with all influences that improve the inborn qualities of a race; also with those who..." Sir Francis Galton 1904

Is the study of methods of improving the quality of human race, especially by selective breeding.
Why it's important to talk about Eugenics

Current status of genetics, will lead to designer babies. The use of genetic counseling to weed out all bad and/or negative traits. To some extent, are these two points already being performed.
Before World War II, 28 countries were practicing Eugenics. Eugenics included sterilization of the mentally, physically or those who failed IQ tests. Vasectomies began in 1890. IQ tests helped scientists find the imbecile, idiot and the feeble-minded.
History of Eugenic cont.

After the Nazis took the idea of Eugenics to the points of destruction of 6 million Jews, it now became taboo for anyone to talk about Eugenics.

In 1933, the Eugenic Sterilization Law of Germany was passed, followed by Euthanasia Programs.
Genetic Counseling

Women can make informed decisions about having children if a genetic predisposition is known, or choosing to abort, if the consequences are severe. For example, in some communities, there is a genetic predisposition to a rare disorder like Tay Sachs. Also, genetic testing can identify Down Syndrome, Fragile X, and cystic fibrosis.
Reproductive Technology

Artificial Insemination–1884 Dr. William Pancoast picked his best looking medical student to use his sperm to impregnate a woman whose husband was infertile

In Vitro fertilization
Reproductive Technology cont.

Cryopreservation—“Repository for the Germinal Choice” first sperm bank. Designed for Nobel Prize winners in 1980–1999... “Notable” sperm bank: Req. at least a Masters degree, top businessmen, or successful artists, entertainers and athletes.
Reproductive Technology cont.

Nuclear Substitution–Dolly, the sheep–Humans? Try to make designer babies using these methods
Future of Reproductive Technology

Designer Babies: Parents would be able to choose certain characteristics for their babies such as eye or hair color etc. What about emergenic traits?
Australia

Forced sterilization of women under the age of 18 with mental disorders

Family courts decide

As of 2001, 1000 women were...

from the courts decision

Experts, Doctors and Family members were questioned about the woman with the mental disorder
China
1979 Urban Areas of China only allowed one child, Rural areas allowed 2
Female infanticide
1995 Maternal and Infant Health Law–Pre-marital physical for genetic disease, target infectious diseases and mental diseases
If one or both people have genetic defects, they can only marry if they agree that one becomes sterilized or take long-term contraceptive measures. If a genetic defect is found during the prenatal examination, or if the safety of the pregnant woman is in danger, the baby will be terminated.
Slovakia

Forced sterilization of Roma (Gypsies) Women come in for birth, and find that once they awaken, they were sterilized. Racial discrimination rather than government regulations.
Answers to Questions

Name two countries that have governmental regulations that help the movement of Eugenics. – China and Australia

What are “designer babies?” – Babies in which parents will be able to decide what characteristics they want to be present in their child.
“The decision involves in an area where our social history clouds our vision and encourages many to perceive the mentally handicapped as somewhat less than human” Justice La Forrest