

# THE SEED VAULT FOR THE END OF THE WORLD

Throughout history, thousands of species of living beings have appeared and disappeared. Not only animals but also plants. Did you know that the banana was on the brink of extinction? That's why, in fact, the varieties we eat today are not the same as those consumed 80 years ago.

In nature, there are many different varieties of bananas, but only a handful of them are edible, while the rest have a truly horrible taste. That's why farmers "cloned" bananas, meaning they planted cuttings of the same type of banana, which at that time was the Gros Michel. However, doing so posed a high risk because, being all the same type, they could all disappear for the same reason... And that's exactly what happened. Gros Michel was attacked by a fungus that almost wiped out this banana variety. Nowadays, they are very difficult to find, and they have been replaced by another variant, known as Cavendish.

But if this happened with bananas, could it happen with other crops? What if wheat, tomatoes, onions, or any other crop disappeared? That's what inspired the idea for this mega-project - the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, also known as the seed vault for the end of the world.

The World Seed Bank was designed to store seed samples from around the world as a safety measure to protect the genetic diversity of crops in the event of natural disasters, wars, or other catastrophic events. Additionally, this location was chosen for its unique climate, as the icy cold of Svalbard helps preserve the seeds in case an important crop were to disappear.

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS



1.- What was the name of the banana variety that disappeared?

---

---

2.- Why was the seed bank built?

---

---

---

3. Why is it located in Svalbard?

---

---

---

