

# Instructor's Guide

## Drugs: Uses and Abuses THC

### Questions

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1. What is the scientific name of the hemp plant?
2. Discuss the ways the hemp plant is used legally.
3. What are cannabinoids?
4. What is THC and what does it stand for?
5. How does THC affect the body? What side effects does it produce?
6. How long does THC stay in your system?
7. Why are chemically synthesized versions of THC manufactured?
8. What three illegal drugs are produced from the hemp plant? What do they look like, and how are they used?
9. Give some slang terms for marijuana.
10. How does marijuana affect the brain?
11. What are some long-term effects associated with marijuana use?
12. What does the term "gateway drug" mean?
13. Describe some effects and side effects of hashish.
14. What is the THC concentration of hashish?

**Drugs: Uses and Abuses**  
**THC**

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15. Describe some effects and side effects of hash oil.
16. What is the THC concentration of hash oil?
17. What is toxic psychosis?
18. What long-term effects do all cannabinoids produce?
19. What withdrawal symptoms are associated with the use of cannabis?

## Answer Key

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- 1. What is the scientific name of the hemp plant?**  
*Cannabis sativa.*
- 2. Discuss the ways the hemp plant is used legally.**  
The stem fiber of the hemp plant is used in making textiles such as rope and sailcloth, while the seed is used in feed mixtures. The oil extracted from the hemp plant is use in soaps and paints.
- 3. What are cannabinoids?**  
Cannabinoids are drugs derived from the hemp plant.
- 4. What is THC and what does it stand for?**  
THC is the psychoactive substance contained in cannabinoids. It stands for delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol.
- 5. How does THC affect the body? What side effects does it produce?**  
THC activates cannabinoid receptors found in different parts of the brain, altering perception, intensifying experiences, and creating euphoria. Its side effects include uncontrollable laughter, increased hunger, paranoia, dry mouth, and red eyes.
- 6. How long does THC stay in your system?**  
Drug tests can detect traces of THC in the body days and even weeks after cannabis use. However, some drug counselors contend it can take six months to two years for THC to leave the user's body.
- 7. Why are chemically synthesized versions of THC manufactured?**  
Manufactured versions of THC are often used to combat anorexia, nausea, and vomiting, side effects usually experienced by cancer and AIDS patients during their treatments. Glaucoma patients are also often prescribed manufactured versions of THC. Manufactured THC is legally available by prescription.

**8. What three illegal drugs are produced from the hemp plant?****What do they look like, and how are they used?**

Marijuana: Green, brown, or gray mixture that resembles oregano or grass clippings. It can be smoked, eaten, or brewed in tea.

Hashish: Brown or black cakes or balls. It can be smoked or eaten.

Hash Oil: Thick, syrupy liquid that ranges from clear to dark in color. It is smoked.

**9. Give some slang terms for marijuana.**

Pot, ganja, herb, weed, grass, reefer, Mary Jane.

**10. How does marijuana affect the brain?**

Marijuana affects the memory part of the brain, causing short-term memory loss. It also affects the cerebellum, causing poor balance and coordination.

**11. What are some long-term effects associated with marijuana use?**

Some long-term effects of marijuana use include lack of motivation, loss of energy, and disinterest.

**12. What does the term "gateway drug" mean?**

A gateway drug refers to a drug that might lead users to try other, more powerful drugs. Marijuana is a gateway drug.

**13. Describe some effects and side effects of hashish.**

Effects of hashish include keener hearing, sharper taste buds, and acute vision. Some side effects might be mood swings, fragmented thoughts, clumsiness, disorientation, and paranoia.

**14. What is the THC concentration of hashish?**

Hashish contains as much as three times more THC than marijuana.

**15. Describe some effects and side effects of hash oil.**

Hash oil has the same effects on the user as marijuana and hashish, only it is much stronger and more intense due to the high concentration of THC found in hash oil.

**16. What is the THC concentration of hash oil?**

The THC content of hash oil is from 20 to 50 percent. Therefore, it can take only a drop or two of hash oil to equal the effect of a single marijuana cigarette.

**17. What is toxic psychosis?**

Caused by high doses of cannabis, toxic psychosis causes the user to suffer image distortion, fantasies, and hallucinations.

**18. What long-term effects do all cannabinoids produce?**

Long-term use of cannabinoids can cause respiratory damage, suppressed immunity, and cancer. Delayed puberty has also been shown in male teens, along with disrupted menstrual cycles in females.

**19. What withdrawal symptoms are associated with the use of cannabis?**

Withdrawal symptoms include tremors, chills, irritability, anger, and cravings.

## Discussion Starters

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1. Why would marijuana/hashish appeal to potential users?
2. Do you think using marijuana or hashish is dangerous? If not, when could it become dangerous?
3. Discuss the medical/social debate surrounding marijuana legalization.
4. Who could you go to if you or a friend had any questions about or problems with marijuana or hashish?

## **Additional Resources**

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### **The Facts About Marijuana**

[www.marijuana-info.org](http://www.marijuana-info.org)

### **streetdrugs.org**

[www.streetdrugs.org/hashish.htm](http://www.streetdrugs.org/hashish.htm)

### **Marijuana Addiction Treatment**

[www.marijuana-addiction-treatment.com](http://www.marijuana-addiction-treatment.com)

### **National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD)**

[www.ncadd.org](http://www.ncadd.org)

### **SAMHSA's National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information**

[www.health.org](http://www.health.org)

### **National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)**

[www.drugabuse.gov](http://www.drugabuse.gov)

### **The Partnership for a Drug-Free America®**

[www.drugfree.org](http://www.drugfree.org)

## **Additional Resources at [www.films.com](http://www.films.com)**

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**Available from Films Media Group • [www.films.com](http://www.films.com) • 1-800-257-5126**

### **Marijuana**

- 17" x 22" poster
- Part of the poster series *Drugs: A Destructive Force*
- Order # 37038



This is poster 3 of the 8-part poster series *Drugs: A Destructive Force*. This eight-poster series speaks directly to young people about the alarming risks and all-too-frequent tragedies linked with drug abuse. In addition to several types of dangerous substances—including prescription and over-the-counter medication—the deadly pitfalls of drunk driving are also examined. Posters include Cocaine, Alcohol, Marijuana, Smoking, Prescription/OTC Drugs, Hallucinogens, Inhalants, and Drunk Driving. A Cambridge Educational Product. © 2007.

**Drug Posters**

- Eight 17" x 22" posters (available laminated or unlaminated)
- Order # 10901



This series of brightly illustrated, attention-grabbing posters explains, in detail, the harsh realities of substance abuse and the life-threatening decisions kids make today. With compelling up-to-date factual information, these posters cover the most popular drugs in teenage society. Use them to inform, explore myths, and promote valuable discussions. Posters include Hallucinogens, Inhalants, Narcotics, Phencyclidine (PCP), Sedatives, Steroids, Stimulants, Marijuana. A Cambridge Educational Product. © 2000.

**Messing with Heads: Marijuana and Mental Illness**

- VHS/DVD
- Close captioned
- Preview clip online at [www.films.com](http://www.films.com) (Search on 34954)
- Correlates to educational standards
- Order # 34954

This program explores new research into a link between marijuana and mental illnesses, specifically schizophrenia and paranoid psychosis. Citing a wealth of clinical evidence and observations by neurologists, psychiatrists, and psychologists, the program delves into the frightening effects of THC on young brains: psychotic delusions and behavior that may not appear until years after drug abuse has ended. (46 minutes) © 2005.

**Cannabis: Satanic Herb or Healing Potion?**

- VHS/DVD
- Part of the series *Drugs and the Brain*
- Close captioned
- Preview clip online at [www.films.com](http://www.films.com) (Search on 36368)
- Correlates to educational standards
- Order # 36368

The neurological effects of cannabis have only recently been fully identified and understood. This program presents many of the latest findings, including new investigations into the clinical applications of the drug. New approaches in the treatment of pain, obesity, anxiety, and even multiple sclerosis are suggested. The scientific contributions of Jean-Pol Tassin, Dieter Kleiber, Rafael Maldonado, and others are explored. (51 minutes) © 2005.

**Animated Neuroscience and the Action of Nicotine, Cocaine, and Marijuana in the Brain**

- VHS/DVD
- Preview clip online at [www.films.com](http://www.films.com) (Search on 8352)
- Correlates to educational standards
- 1998 CINE Golden Eagle Award
- Order # 8352

Using sophisticated 3-D animation, this program takes viewers on a journey deep into the brain to study the effects of the three substances. The first part illustrates the major functions of the brain and shows how neurons communicate with each other. In the second part, animated molecules of nicotine, cocaine, and marijuana travel a route from the external environment through the body to the brain, where viewers learn about the cellular targets of these drugs, and how each drug interacts with them and subsequently affects the body. Images of actual neurons used in the animations create a realistic effect that helps viewers understand the concepts presented. (25 minutes) © 1997.

**Facts on ... Drugs**

- CD-ROM (Windows/Macintosh)
- Preview clip online at [www.films.com](http://www.films.com) (Search on 31862)
- Correlates to the American School Health Association standards and the Joint Committee for National School Health Education and the American Cancer Society standards.
- Recommended by *Youth Today*.
- Order # 31862

Conversational in tone yet authoritative in content, this interactive electronic reference guide gives the scoop on dozens of commonly abused drugs, including marijuana, cocaine and crack, heroin, ecstasy, methamphetamine, PCP, inhalants, and steroids, as well as prescription and over-the-counter medicines. Also contains quizzes, a list of frequently asked questions, a glossary, and more. All material is printable, for handy offline reference. A Cambridge Educational Production. © 2003.

**The War on Drugs: The Reality Behind the Movie *Traffic***

- VHS/DVD
- 5-part series, 22 minutes each
- Correlates to educational standards
- Order # 29096

DEA agents and customs officials agree that the Steven Soderbergh film *Traffic* is right on the money—especially the way it hammers home the idea that user demand is the true force behind America's drug problem. ABC News anchor Ted Koppel and correspondent Deborah Amos update the subject of America's war on drugs, addressing the gritty facts so realistically portrayed in *Traffic*. The series includes *Border War: The Mexico/U.S. Drug Connection*; *Meet the Players: The Tijuana Drug Cartel*; *Living in Fear: Dealing with the Drug Underworld*; "Silver or Lead?" *When the Kingpin Comes Calling*; *Looking for a Fix: Teens on Teen Drug Abuse*. © 2001.

**A Passion for Pot: An American Obsession**

- VHS/DVD
- Correlates to educational standards
- Order # 10751

This program focuses on efforts by police to eradicate marijuana-growing in Humboldt County, California, where it is a major underground cash crop; an exclusive club in San Francisco, where marijuana is an over-the-counter commodity; and stories of teens and young adults whose lives have been impacted by marijuana use. Produced by CBS NEWS. (45 minutes) © 1997.

The series *Drugs: Uses and Abuses* includes

- Sedatives
- Narcotics
- Stimulants
- Psychedelics and Hallucinogens
  - Inhalants
    - THC
- PCP and Ketamine
  - Steroids