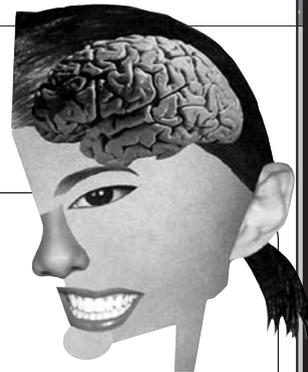


HEADS UP REAL NEWS ABOUT DRUGS AND YOUR BODY



The Word on Marijuana

Here are some of the key words you need to understand to discuss the drug marijuana and its effects. Review the glossary. Then, fill in the blanks in the article below.



GLOSSARY

Blunt: slang term for a cigar filled with marijuana

Cannabinoid Receptors: sites on the surface of brain cells where the active ingredient in marijuana attaches to produce the drug's effects

Cerebellum: part of the brain involved in body movement

Cerebral Cortex: part of the brain involved in higher thinking

Dopamine: a brain chemical (or neurotransmitter) that helps nerve cells communicate

Hemp: the plant marijuana comes from

Hippocampus: part of the brain's limbic system that helps with learning and memory

Joint: slang term for marijuana rolled into a cigarette

Neurons: cells in the brain; also found in the spinal cord and other organs

THC: tetrahydrocannabinol, the main active ingredient in marijuana

WHAT IS MARIJUANA? WHAT DOES IT DO TO THE BRAIN?

The drug marijuana is the dried, shredded leaves of the _____ plant. While there are several methods of use, marijuana is often rolled into a cigarette, called a _____, or stuffed into a hollowed-out cigar, called a _____, and smoked.

The drug's effects on the brain are caused by the main active ingredient, tetrahydrocannabinol, or _____. This chemical attaches to specific receptors in the brain called _____ receptors. When it binds to these receptors, it interferes with the normal communication between brain cells, or _____.

Several parts of the brain have a lot of these receptors, including the _____, which deals with learning and memory; the _____, which helps with body movement; and the cerebral _____, which is in charge of higher thinking.

Finally, research shows that THC triggers the release of _____, a chemical that helps nerve cells communicate.