

What Do You Know About the Teen Brain and Drugs?

Answer these questions to test your knowledge.



1. The brains of teenagers are:

- a. larger than those of adults
- b. the same as adult brains
- c. not yet fully developed
- d. made up of different parts than those of adults

2. The limbic system of the brain is involved mainly with:

- a. decision making
- b. emotions
- c. problem solving
- d. balance

3. The last part of the brain to fully develop is:

- a. the emotion center
- b. the part of the brain that controls automatic behavior like breathing
- c. the reward center
- d. the part of the brain involved in critical thinking

4. Teen brains are less sensitive to the effects of drugs than those of adults.

- True
- False

5. Which of the following statements is NOT true about the brain's prefrontal cortex?

- a. It helps people to weigh the risks of actions.
- b. It develops fully during childhood.
- c. It is used when adults need to make decisions.
- d. It can be damaged by drug use.

6. Drug use can cause changes to the brain.

- True
- False

7. Dopamine is:

- a. a natural chemical in the brain linked to pleasurable feelings
- b. a chemical found in drugs that affects the brain
- c. the region of the brain involved in emotions
- d. a natural chemical in the brain that decreases risk-taking

8. The number of connections between neurons in your brain can be affected by drug use.

- True
- False

NOW TRY THIS

Answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper after reading "Drugs and the Teen Brain."

1. What is the importance of the limbic system in the teen brain? Describe two ways this system can make teens more vulnerable to drugs.
2. Explain why a person's actions during their teen years can have a permanent impact on their life. Use evidence about brain development to support your answer.

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From Scholastic and the scientists of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services